X-MEN MOVIE: Stewart signs up!

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SEPTEMBER 1999 • COVER 1 OF 2

the comics magazine • 97

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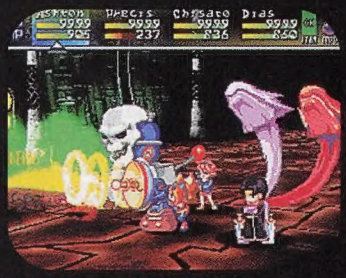
Even your emotions determine the fate of your journey. You may choose to be romantically linked with another character, or you may choose to remain friends. But no matter what, it will affect your path. And more seriously, if a friend dies in battle, you'll feel incredible rage that will cause you to fight with even more furious combat moves.

# Star Ocean
## THE SECOND STORY™



And there is no easy way out. Tools and skills do not just appear along the way. You must create many items from raw materials. And to do that you will then find yourself mastering difficult skills like alchemy, metalwork, songwriting, and even cooking.

You will find yourself braving the countless routes while traveling through this game. And there are over 80 endings. The deeper you delve, the more you'll discover that nothing – no detail, no clue, no conversation, no skill – can be taken for granted. And that anything is possible. Including the fact that you might not ever make it back.

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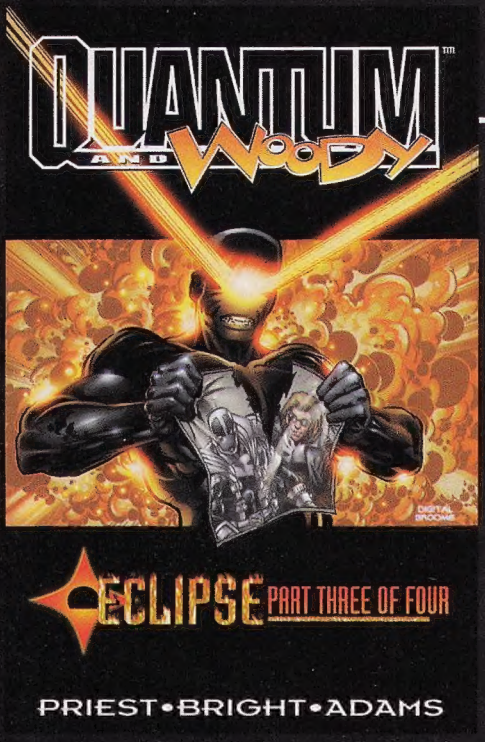
# THIS SEPTEMBER, CENSORED HAPPENS!

## Shadow Man #3
### Flipbook

Part One sets the stage as Michael and Astrid enter the infernal labyrinths of the Asylum to meet Legion and his cabal of serial killers.
By Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning & ChrisCross

THE VALIANT DEATHS OF JACK BONIFACE is Part Two, and presents the first Original Valiant Universe story in over three years! It's 1999, and all Valiant fans know what that means for Shadowman ... death! A prelude to a much larger event later this year!
By Paul Creddick, Ryan Benjamin & Mat Broome




## Quantum & Woody #32

Dr. Eclipse: Part 3 of 4

Picking up right where we left off LAST issue! With time running out, Quantum & Woody race to find a way to destroy Dr. Eclipse's ultimate weapon while knowing that, if they succeed, destroying the weapon could also kill Eclipse, Quantum's oldest friend! Guest starring the ARMORINES!!!
A little confused, are you? What happened to issues #18-31, do you say? Check out ACCLAIM.NET for the full explanation on this highly anticipated return of Quantum & Woody!

By Priest, M.D. Bright & Greg Adams

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# WIZARD® contents

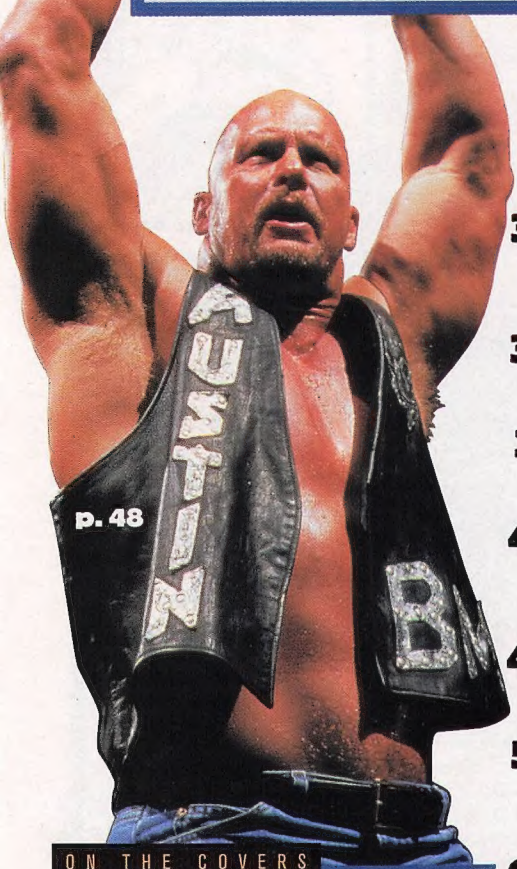
THE COMICS MAGAZINE • NUMBER 97 • SEPTEMBER 1999

**HEY, OVER HERE!**

Tying into our celebratory, year-long countdown to the new millennium, *Wizard* looks toward the future in each 1999 issue. Check out our **MC2** feature on **page 42** to see a possible future for the Marvel Universe. Then flip to **page 66** for our tour of **Universal Studios'** kick-ass **Marvel Island of Adventure**, and see the future of theme parks.

COUNTDOWN TO WIZARD 2000

ISSUES TO GO

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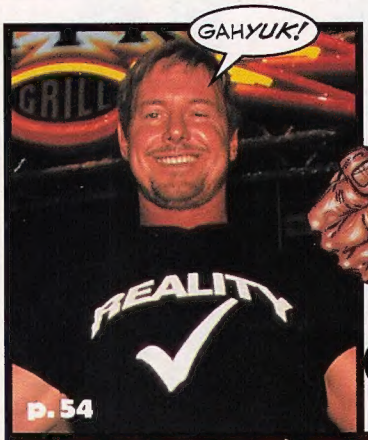


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**32 FIRST LOOK: MACHINA REX**
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Everything you did (and didn't) wanna know about Batgirl. **By Scott Brick and the *Wizard* Staff**

**37 STRIP TEASE: USAGI YOJIMBO**
It's a bunny with a sword! Take an ancient journey with samurai rabbit Usagi Yojimbo. **A killer story by Stan Sakai**

**42 GENERATION NEXT**
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**48 WRESTLE MANIA**
Professional wrestling crashes comics and puts the industry in a chokehold. **By André D. Shell**

**54 WELCOMING MAT**
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**60 THE WIZARD Q&A: HARLAN ELLISON**
The world's angriest author mouths off on a Superman project, getting fired from Disney and never wanting to hear the words "Star Trek" again. **By Scott Brick**

**66 'MARVEL'OUS ADVENTURE**
Pack your Ultimate Nullifier as *Wizard* tours Marvel's Island of Adventure. Yippee! **By Jim McLauchlin**

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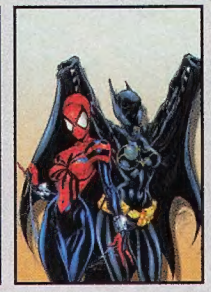
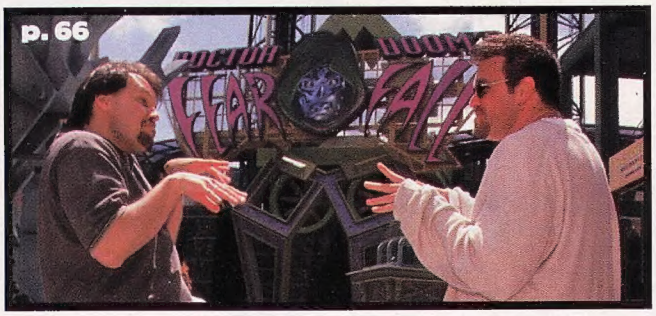
**ON THE COVERS**



To find out what sort of food pro wrestler **Sting** (left) eats, check out our trip to the WCW Nitro Grill on **page 54.** And to learn which wrestlers are actually invading comics, slam your way to **page 48. Batgirl/Spider-Girl** was illustrated by J. Scott Campbell and Alex Garner, and colored by Liquid Graphics. To learn more news about Batgirl than you probably should, flip to **page 34.** And to get the lowdown on the future of the Marvel Universe, leap to **page 42.**

STONE COLD PHOTO BY TOM BUCHANAN, PIPER PHOTO BY GREGORY CAVA, ELLISON PHOTO BY CRAIG MULLENHOUSE, STING, MARVEL ISLAND BY PAUL SCIBRALDI.



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Give us your best fantasy drawing and you can win an Aria prize package, including a limited-edition archival print, signed comics and your character drawn by *Aria* artist Jay Anacleto himself!

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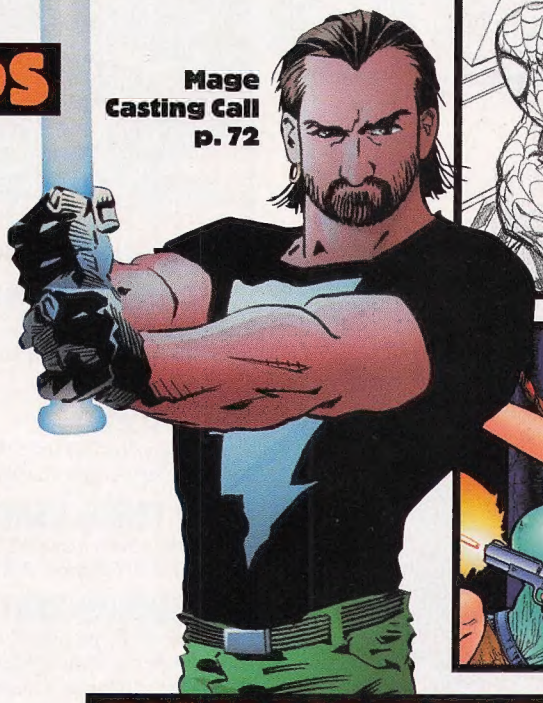

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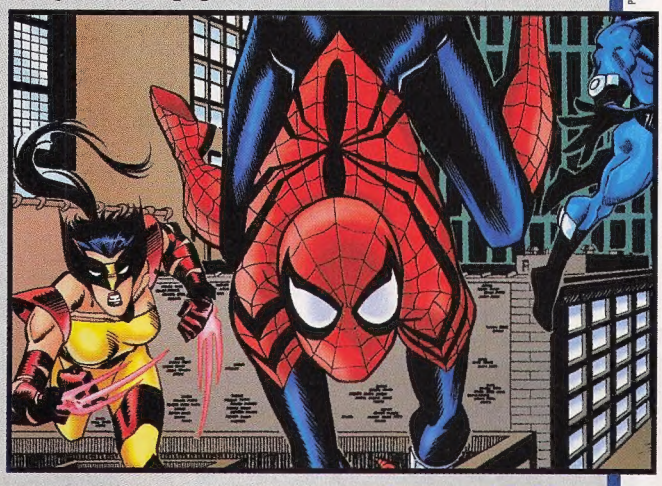
# EXCLUSIVE OFFER

COOL STUFF THROUGH THE MAIL

## SPIDER-GIRL #1/2

Mayday! Mayday! Here's your only chance to get the exclusive *Spider-Girl* #1/2 comic featuring a tale of ol' May Parker (that's Spider-Girl, y'know) taking on the ferocious Sabretooth in a story by creators Tom DeFalco and Ron Frenz. Swing on over to **page 96** for more details.



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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

"OKAY...GENTLE THIS TIME! GENTLE!"

# CLOCK'S TICKIN'

Summer is always a fun time of year for us. Besides all the conventions and getting to see everyone in the comics biz, we also begin to finalize our plans for the huge, year-ender issue. It seems like there's never an end to the planning!

This year's closer, however, is an even harder challenge, because we're going into the year 2000. We've already started the countdown to *Wizard* 2000. We need to plan the entire magazine around the New Year—the cover, the inserts and all the good stuff that makes up *Wizard* every month. Plus, we need to come up with a marketing strategy, review all the designs for the ad campaign, and then execute everything so the magazine is done on time and in your hands by year's end. Whew!

Then you know what we do? The same thing for *InQuest Gamer*, *ToyFare* and the next issue of *Wizard*. Well, not only does it seem like it doesn't end, it really doesn't!

This issue, we've got a lot of hot info on wrestling comics—they're getting big! See our Sting cover? We've also got features on Marvel's MC2 Universe, the new Batgirl from "No Man's Land" and a Strip Tease starring that cute bunny, Usagi Yojimbo—don't call him cute to his face, though, 'cause he carries a samurai sword! And don't miss our Q&A with Harlan Ellison—what a character! Also in this ish, my good buddy Jim McLauchlin (above) goes to Marvel Adventure Island! It's great!
That Spider-Girl (also on our cover) sure is a cutie, eh? Check out our *Spider-Girl* #1/2 offer to see what I mean!
Was Wizard World a blast or what?

See ya next month!

Gareb Shamus

P.S. Don't forget to visit us at www.wizardworld.com for up-to-the-minute comics info!


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**CONTRIBUTORS** *Scott Aubrey, Mark Bernardo, Sorrell Booke, David Borak, Scott Brick, Jim Calafiore, Matthew Danish, Dan DiGiacomo, Chris Hutchins, John B. Lacey, Russell Lissau, Trent D. McNeeley, Tom Palmer Jr., Tom Root, Jake Rossen, Patrick Sauriol, Dean Simakis, Jim Thompson*

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THESE LETTERS ARE NOT TO BE USED AS A LIFE-SAVING DEVICE

# MAGIC WORDS

## BEAU GOES CRAZY... GIANT UNDERPANTS... AND A LETTER FROM LOKI!

**You *know* it's gonna be a good day when you go to the mail-bag and see a postmark that says "Flying Fist Ranch." That's the home of the one and only Beau Smith, writer of Chaos! Comics' *Undertaker* and the self-professed Last Real Man in Comics. Every letter from Beau should be unwrapped like a precious gift. Even this one...**

**Dear Wizard,**

I'm sittin' at the ranch, gazin' over frisky-lookin' photos of Jennifer Lopez that she sent me. A cold beer in one hand, and...forget what's in the other.

Anyway, the mail comes and I get my copy of *Wizard* #93. I go to the price guide, 'cause I like to see how much my ever-faithful fans are payin' for my incredible tales of testosterone. What do I see? Your little stab at tryin' to be witty with "Famous Worsts." Swap out the "w" in "witty" and put a "sh" there...now ya got what ya *really* did.

You knotheads picked *Guy Gardner: Warrior* #0 as a "Famous Worst." Once again, you boys have not been readin' the books you try and pick on. If you did, you would find that my two-year run (#20 through #44) added more character and personality than the DC Universe had ever seen. I'm not tootin' my own horn—I've got enough women to do that. I'm just givin' you the facts.

*[Jim's note: Beau goes on for three pages here, extolling the virtues of* Guy Gardner: Warrior *and using the word "testosterone" nine times. For a full dose of Beau, go to www.wizardworld.com. We'll just fast forward to the end.]*

So the bottom of the boot is this, *Wizard* boys: Get off the back of Guy Gardner! If ya want, I can give ya 30 books that truly deserve your junior-high attitude. It doesn't take a brainiac to see where your heads are at. All I have to do is look through your top ten books, favorite writers and artists lists and Alex Ross' butt to see where you're livin'. Quit bein' the fanboy and be the man.

Sit down sometime and have your inflatable girlfriend read you my run on *Guy Gardner: Warrior*. Your body will thank you for lettin' some testosterone run through it for once.

**Beau Smith**
**The Last Real Man in Comics**

**Ah, no one takes—or gives—criticism quite like Beau Smith.**

**Beau, we love ya. To a man, everyone here would be proud to tilt a mug in your honor. But *Guy Gardner: Warrior* is to comics what Dan Quayle is to the Republican Party—a minor embarrassment that looks okay on the outside, but is just full of hot air on the inside.**

**And now for a creator who's passionate in his own way, but a bit less excitable...**

**Dear Jimmy,**

Will artist Carlos Pacheco return to *X-Men* after he's done with the *Avengers Forever* mini-series?

**Stephen Weber**
**Clearwater, FL**

**Nope. "I certainly won't return to *X-Men*," Pacheco says, "but I don't know yet what I *will* be doing."**

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# BUNNY AWARD

LETTER OF THE MONTH

PHOTO BY PAUL SCHIAVOLDI

*Jim takes his favorite letter and spotlights it here. There's no logic attached to this, nor is there a prize.*

**Dear Jim,**

I stopped collecting comics two years ago. I recently got hooked again. My question: What the hell happened? Valiant Comics doesn't exist anymore, DC is actually doing well, and my Ultraverse comics aren't worth the glossy paper they're printed on. I'm confused. Thus, a timeline would be extremely helpful.

**Rodney Ortiz**
**BloodGunt9@aol.com**

**The last two years? They look like this:**

**August 11, 1997: Valiant Comics sinks to the bottom of a very dark, very deep hole, never to be seen again.**

**September 23, 1997: All remaining Ultraverse comics are rounded up and shredded. The remains are used to stuff those doggie beds you buy at the pet store. Ultraverse "Black September" crossover issues are excluded, as their use would constitute cruelty to animals.**

**October 26, 1997: Somehow, the Florida Marlins win the World Series.**

**August 5, 1998: Classic and modern X-Men are united in a new, seven-member line-up in *Uncanny X-Men* #360.**

**January 1, 1999: Jim Lee sells WildStorm Productions, his soul and his Strawberry Shortcake E-Z Bake Oven to DC Comics.**

**May 19, 1999: A bunch of geeks from the *Wizard* offices go see "Star Wars: Episode 1—The Phantom Menace."**

**May 20, 1999: Said geeks start complaining about "Star Wars: Episode 1—The Phantom Menace," often citing something called a "Jar Jar Binks."**

**July 1999: Both DC's *JLApe* annuals and Image's *Cy-Gor* hit, proving that no matter how much things change in comics, monkeys will *always* rule!**

**Welcome back.**

**Jim, You Magnificent Bastard,**

Physics 101 makes it known that electricity and magnetism are, much like Arkansans, interrelated: A magnetic field may be produced by manipulating an electric current; a current may be induced by changing a magnetic field. In other words, a master of magnetism (like Magneto) should also be a master of electricity, and a master of electricity (say, Electro) should be a master of magnetism. Are they?

**Eric Gaudet III**
**EricG@frankscasing.com**

**Bill Rosemann, the Marvel Maven of Mayhem who doubles as the company's information czar, sez you're half right. "It all comes down to training and control, Professor Gaudet! Magneto—stud that he is—is capable of manipulating electricity because he *is* a master. Electro, however, has always been a bit of a clod. At his current skill level, he's more a conduit than a controller. But that doesn't mean he can't learn. If trained by Mr. Miyagi of 'Karate Kid' fame, Electro might one day possess the skill to perform the feared crane technique ('When done properly, is no defense!') and manipulate magnetic fields."**

**Dear Jim,**

According to legend, Kevin Smith financed his "Clerks" movie by pawning his comic book collection, which he bought back once the film turned a profit. I have a hard time believing that a comic fan could part with his entire collection. Is this true? And if so, did Smith refuse to part with any books?

**Andrew Farago**
**Wellington, OH**

**The legend...is true! "I had an estimated $10,000 collection at that time," Smith says. "A comic store picked it up, but gave me a mere $2,000 for the lot—in store credit." Undaunted, Smith sold off the credit a bit at a time to friend Walter Flanagan at a 20-percent discount, and used that cash to pay the bills on "Clerks."**

**And Smith sold off *everything*. "I can say only that the passion to make 'Clerks' superseded my passion to own every issue of *Hawk and Dove*," Smith says. "I figured if I really missed something, I'd buy it back later with some of the store credit."**

**Bottom line? It all worked out. "Clerks" made cash, and today Smith *owns* his own comic store in his hometown of Red Bank, N.J.**

**Pacheco explains, "One thing I've learned is when you're in the middle of a project, don't start thinking about 'what's next.' I want to put all my energies into one thing. I'm still putting all my eggs in the *Avengers Forever* basket."**

**The 12-issue *Avengers Forever* mini, featuring Avengers from different eras in a time-tossed tale, still has one more issue to go. Then Pacheco, who has a Marvel-exclusive contract, will decide where he goes next. "I'd like to continue to work with the classic Marvel characters," Pacheco says. "Maybe we can do something like a "Fantastic Four Forever." I have some ideas about that."**

## HEY! IT'S PEN PALS...

Send your name, address, age, sex and three favorite titles to Pen Pals, c/o the "Magic Words" address at the end of this column (put your age on the envelope). The only way to get your Internet address listed instead is to post your info in the Pen Pals board on America Online's "Wizard World" forum (keyword: Wizard; look in the Wizard Bulletin Board, under Message Boards). **Pre-'98 entrants:** Please resend your entries.

**Dear Jimmy,**

Now that *Daredevil* is back on top thanks to Kevin Smith, I've been rereading my old *DD* comics. Which makes me wonder: Whatever happened to writer Ann Nocenti? Her run on the title was filled with angels and demons much like Kevin Smith's is.

**Kevin Cunningham**
**lordkevin@webtv.net**

**Ann Nocenti, who spent the years 1986-1991 writing *Daredevil* #236-#291, is largely out of comics. She may do some Batman-related stuff for DC Comics, but that's still well down the line if it happens at all. In the meantime, she's writing screenplays and has worked as a journalist.**

**And while her *Daredevil* comics may have been angel- and demon-filled, her journalistic career has been filled with shivs, soap-on-a-rope and smuggled cartons of Lucky Strikes. Yep, Ann used to be an editor for *Prison Life* magazine, our favorite periodical for the incarcerated!**

**Oh, yeah—she also recently did an X-Men novel for Byron Press Multimedia titled *Prisoner X*...that took place entirely in a prison. Just goes ta show ya: *Any* experience can be a valuable experience.**

**Hey Jim,**

1) Whatever happened to Bart Sears?

2) Is Bill Sienkiewicz gonna do any more comic penciling work?

3) What beer goes good with pie?

**Sean Harris**
**Ventura, CA**

**1) *Spider-Woman* happened. Bart is penciling the first few issues of the brand-spankin'-new Marvel title. And now *Blade* is gonna happen. Our buddy Bart will get to write *and* draw the new ongoing focusing on Marvel's vampire hunter. The first issue hits in October.**

**2) Probably not. He's inking the *Galactus the Devourer* mini-series, but has no other comic work in the works; our buddy Bill is busying himself with lots of painted magazine illustrations these days. His work has popped up recently in *ESPN: The Magazine* and *Spin*.**

**3) Cold.**

**Dear Wizard,**

1) Could you please print a color picture of *Detective Comics* #27 (the first appearance of Batman) without any logos obscuring the picture?

2) How many copies of *Detective* #27 still exist?

3) Aside from professional hitman, what jobs pay enough that I could buy a *Detective* #27?

**Paul J. Tobar Jr.**
**San Jose, CA**

**DAN NICKERSON**
Age: 25 Sex: M
54 Cypress Ln. #2
Nashua, NH 03063-2323
Likes: *Poison Elves, Battle Chasers, Blade of the Immortal*

**BRANDON MILES**
Age: 16 Sex: M
6612 S. 254 E. Ave
Broken Arrow, OH 74014
Likes: anything Dragonball, *Dragonball Z*, vampires

**JOHN PEÑA**
Age: 15 Sex: M
PO Box 11674
Costa Mesa, CA 92627-0674
Likes: All Marvel, *Wildcats*

**YANKO F. TAPIA**
Age: 14 Sex: M
3601 N. Dartmouth Ave.
Tampa, FL 33603
Likes: *Kaboom, Rising Stars*, anything with Magneto

**TODD MABBOTT**
Age: 14 Sex: M
170 Sanderson Rd.
Quesnel, British Columbia,
CANADA V2J 5C9
Likes: *Wolverine*, Venom

**LEE DANIEL GUEST**
Age: 21 Sex: M
10 Brockhurst Way
Thrybergh, Rotherham
S65 4BZ ENGLAND
Likes: *Flash, Madman*

**ANDRES J. DURAN**
Age: 39 Sex: M
1511 N. Ave 51
Los Angeles, CA 90042
Likes: Buffy comics, Xena comics and action figures

**1) No. Because if I did, several large, thuggish lawyers from DC would come over here to drum my ass.**

**2) According to *Wizard* Price Guide Manager and male model Lars Pearson, "There's no exact count, but the general consensus among Golden Age experts and big-time collectors is that there are fewer than 100 copies. There are probably more *Action Comics* #1s [the first appearance of Superman] in circulation than *Detective* #27s."**

**3) You could always try being a lawyer for DC.**

### Dear Wizard,

Why is DC gouging people with the *Crisis on Infinite Earths* hardcover reissue? At $100 a shot, it's just way too much for the average reader to spend. Wouldn't they have sold more if they put it out in softcover at a more reasonable price?

**Michael A. McCullough**
**Selbyville, DE**

**Maybe. But according to Bob Wayne, DC's VP of direct sales, a lot of the cost was tied up in reproduction, not format. "This collection required a restoration effort unparalleled in the history of comics," Wayne says. "Since the original *Crisis* used a special printing process that has long since been outmoded, every page had to be reconstructed from the original four-color film."**

**Bottom line: Even in softcover, it would have been only a couple bucks cheaper. DC decided to price it up a few dollars and go all-out with a better, stronger format.**

### Jimmers,

I've read a couple of interviews with comic book writers and was wondering: What the hell is the "Marvel Style" of writing a comic that they keep bringing up?

**Pat Enderle**
**renderle@erols.com**

**"Marvel Style" refers to writing with an outline rather than a full script. The term came into use in the early '60s when Stan Lee was writing about eleventy-kazillion Marvel books. If he would have tried to fully script the books before handing them off to artists, Marvel would have blown more deadlines than Cliffhanger. So Stan generated a short outline, an artist would draw the book, then Stan would add in the dialogue later. The net effect? Books got out on time, and artists got more say in the creative process. Just check out *Amazing Spider-Man*: Penciler Steve Ditko is listed as co-plotter on many early issues.**

**And didn't I tell you guys not to call me "Jimmers"?**

### Dear Magic Words,

My favorite "Animaniacs" character is Slappy Squirrel. How come you don't mention her in your magazine?

**Darryl Heine**
**Inverness, IL**

**'Cause the last time I mentioned "slapping the squirrel," I got complaints from both the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Decency League.**

### Hey Jimbo,

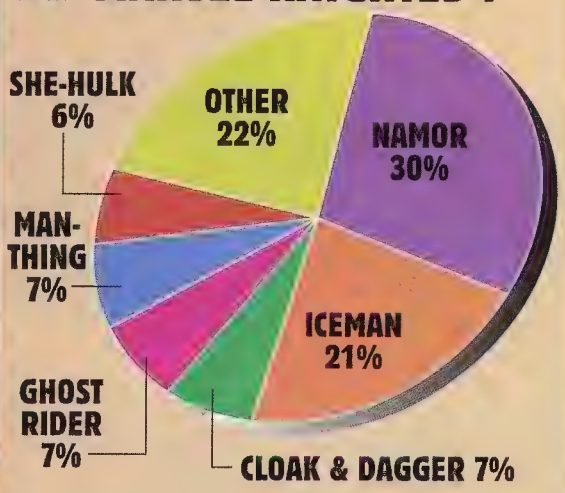
How were damn near all the old Marvel monsters like Groot, the Monster from Planet X and Fin Fang Foom able to obtain those giant monster underpants? Where do they get those big bloomers?

**Chris Moreno**
**juanDbag@aol.com**

ONLINE QUESTION OF THE MONTH

## SURVEY SAYS

### WHICH CHARACTER SHOULD BE 'MARVEL KNIGHTED'?




**Who knew those little ankle wings could lift ol' Namor so high?**

**The Marvel Knights imprint has the okay to do a second year, so in an online poll (www.wizardworld.com) we let fly the idea of which Marvel character should get the Knights' golden touch like Daredevil, Black Widow and the Inhumans did last year. Namor the Sub-Mariner, Marvel's first mutant and an all-around bad-ass, swam off with 30% of the vote. "He's been around forever, and he's done it all," wrote one fanboy. "It'd be awesome to see the Marvel Universe from his eyes."**

**The "Other" category got a whopping 22% as fanboys tried to resurrect long-forgotten heroes. D-Man, Nomad, Darkhawk and even Stan "The Man" Lee got calls to star in their own comics. One lone voter cast his vote for Freedom Force, though he admitted "there's a high probability it might suck."** ■ **NACHIE CASTRO**

**LUKASZ SZALACH**
Age: 19 Sex: M
Ul. Zeromskiego 19m.2
64-920 Pila.
POLAND
Likes: *Spawn, Lobo,* manga

**CHRIS HARTLEY**
Age: 22 Sex: M
Bldg 1041 PSC 20140
Camp Lejeune, NC 28542-0140
Likes: *Spawn, Lady Death*

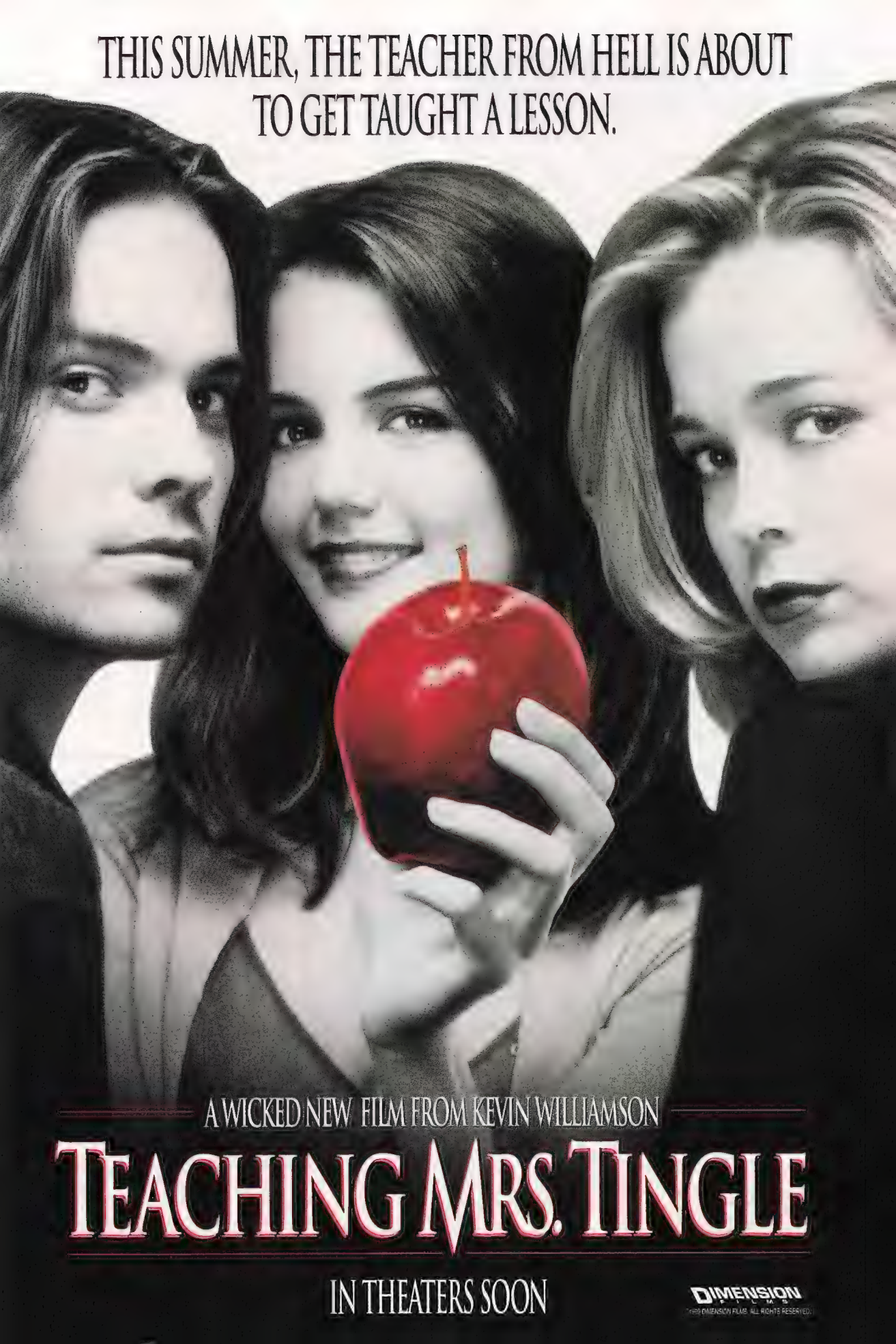
**BRANDON OHLGREN**
Age: 15 Sex: M
2918 Valento Ln.
Little Canada, MN 55117
Likes: All Spider-Man books, *Generation X,* Tomb Raider

**JAKE JOPLIN**
Age: 12 Sex: M
907 Brown St.
Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783
Likes: Joe Madureira, Pat Lee, Alex Ross

**KARL BRASSE**
Age: 16 Sex: M
8 Cezanne Ct.
Torrens Park 5062, South Australia
Likes: *Sin City,* all Frank Miller

**ROBERT AGALA**
Sex: 13 Sex: M
4809 Robertson
Houston, TX 77009
Likes: *Spawn, Dragonball Z, Lady Death*

**CHRISTOPHER R. SELF**
Age: 16 Sex: M
15615 Cascade Point Dr.
Houston, TX 77084-3110
Likes: Spider-Man books, *Robin,* Peter Bagge books


THIS SUMMER, THE TEACHER FROM HELL IS ABOUT TO GET TAUGHT A LESSON.
A WICKED NEW FILM FROM KEVIN WILLIAMSON
TEACHING MRS. TINGLE
IN THEATERS SOON
DIMENSION FILMS
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# LETTERART

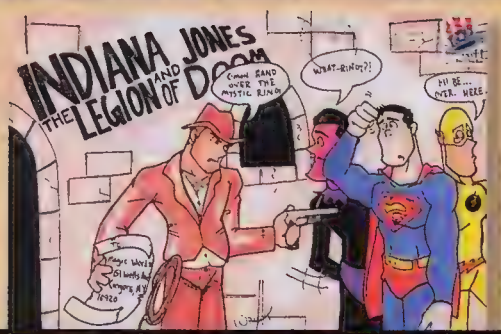
Each fan who has his or her letter art printed this month wins a copy of *Akiko* #1, signed by Mark Crilley himself, plus a copy of this month's issue of *Wizard* signed by the entire *Wizard* creative staff! The talented creator of this month's best envelope will win a signed *Akiko* #1 as well as an original sketch of Akiko, also by Crilley. (Prizes for this contest have been generously donated by Mr. Crilley, who may or may not be aware that *Wizard* house band the Poogtastics have named themselves after one of his characters.) Artists: Please include a clearly printed return address and a list of characters depicted on the back of the envelope. Those Poogtastics play phat beats!

## ENVELOPE OF THE MONTH.....THE PRIZE

**DAFFY MAUL VS. BUGS-WAN** Nicholas Baltra, Brandon, FL

**BATTLE CHASERS** Graeme MacDonald, Victoria, British Columbia, CANADA

**SAVAGE DRAGON** Joe Rinaudi, Glenside, PA




**INDIANA JONES VS. LEGION OF DOOM** Josh Wright, Fremont, OH

**Bloomers?**

**Little known fact: There's a store called "Uncle Portly's Big and Tall Monster Shop" at the corner of Yancy Street and Graymalkin Lane in the Marvel Universe. They specialize in giant, Comics Code-approved underpants for the fashionable monster...and biggie-boy pants for the husky fanboy.**

### Dear Jim,

My name is Jim Loki. Yes, "Loki," same as the Norse god of mischief and constant villain in Marvel's *Thor*.

Funny thing is, no one in my family knows where the name came from, or knows anything about Marvel Comics or Norse mythology. Could it somehow be that the *real* Loki has clouded their minds? Could I be descended from a god? Or maybe the ancient Vikings actually worshipped me!

**Jim Loki**
**Lokipokey@aol.com**

**More likely, you're just some delusional fanboy looking for something you think is cool to spice up your comic-geek life. But I could be wrong. If I get a letter from a guy named, say, Red Scull...I'll let ya know.**

**And I'll let everyone know that it's time to drop the "Magic Words" curtain for this ish. Until next month, I remain...**

**—Jim McLauchlin**

*We're sorry for the inconvenience, but this month's tagline by Jim McLauchlin is closed for repairs.*

**Send letters to:**
**Magic Words**
**151 Wells Ave.**
**Congers, NY 10920**
**or e-mail us at JMcLauch@aol.com**

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c/o Wizard Entertainment Group
151 Wells Ave.
Congers, NY 10920
(914) 268-3594
(Please include your full name, address and phone number and be as detailed as possible.)

# Still WANTED

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However, it won't hurt!!

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*reference AD07 on all correspondence*

**Submit the following to the address below:**

Writers:
detailed resume

Pencillers, Inkers, Colorists, et al:

concise resume

comic art portfolio samples, which should include:

page layouts

splash

cover samples (if possible)

*Samples will NOT be returned*

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**GOIN' APE?** Mark Waid (left) and Kurt Busiek catch monkey madness.

# 500-POUND 'GORILLA'

## Are writers Busiek and Waid forming their own comic imprint?

Looks like Marvel Comics may have a monkey on its back it doesn't even know about.

Fan-favorite writer Mark Waid already ditched his assignment on Marvel's *Captain America*. This month, fans hear the news that super-popular writer Kurt Busiek bolts *Thunderbolts* in October and *Iron Man* after December. Just random occurrences? Maybe not.

The hottest rumor swirling through the comic world today states that these two writers—linked by Marvel's 1998 "Heroes Return" launches and considered two of comics' top guns—are looking to become the 500-pound gorillas of "Gorilla Comics."

"Gorilla" is a working name under which Waid and Busiek are shopping a stable of creator-owned comic titles. Popular conception has it that DC Comics' WildStorm imprint—where Busiek already publishes his creator-owned *Astro City*—is interested in "Gorilla" for a summer 2000 launch. DC representatives had no comment.

Image Comics is definitely in the running. "We are certainly negotiating with them in a very lively manner, which goes up and down in terms of how close or how far we are every day," said Larry Marder, Image Comics executive director. But depite this, Waid and Busiek remain coy.

"You know, I've been hearing a lot about this," Waid laughed. "If it were true, it would be a good way to finally develop all this creator-owned stuff I've been promising myself I'd do for years."

Waid also denied personal involvement in any negotiations. "I can't speak for Kurt Busiek, but I have not spoken to anyone at Image or DC," he said. Busiek said only that, "It would be very flattering if these publishers were interested in my work."

While specifics are few, each writer indicated a desire to run their own show. "Both the major companies [Marvel and DC] are getting more editorially driven as opposed to creator driven," Waid said. "Whereas that is their prerogative, I find that kind of stifling from time to time."

Busiek took a long view. "I want to do more creator-owned stuff," he said. "Every time I finish a piece of *Astro City*, I have this strong feeling that I'm building something that's in my hands, my control, and will be there for a long time. I want to do more creator-owned stuff, but I don't have time with what I'm doing now. That's why I'm cutting back on my schedule."

Rumor also holds that "Gorilla" may try to lure top artists. George Pérez and Carlos Pacheco—Busiek's partners on *Avengers* and *Avengers Forever*, respectively—have been mentioned, as has *Captain America*'s Andy Kubert. Pérez has stated that *Crimson Plague*, a property he owns, will be published as a mini-series in 2000 "under a new company," but refused further comment. Pacheco and Kubert are currently under Marvel-exclusive contracts. "The

thought of being together with these big names is an honor to me," Pacheco said. "I have enjoyed working with Kurt. I would like to work with Kurt in the future. But right now, I have a year and a half on a Marvel contract in front of me."

But alongside any desire to branch off with creator-owned properties, Busiek and Waid are sticking to their big, corporate-owned titles—*Avengers* and *JLA*. "I recently signed an extension on my deal with *Avengers*," Busiek revealed. "I'm committed as I can be."

Waid will also remain. "I have no plans of leaving *JLA*," he said of the book he starts an ongoing run on in March. "At this moment, my monthly work is *Flash* and *JLA*. I have no plans of leaving either. I have a good relationship with DC, and no intention on leaving that, even if I don't spend 100 percent of my time there."

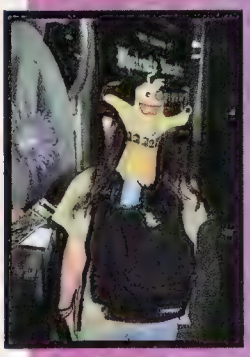
Busiek's time? "Right now, I'm working on *Thunderbolts* and *Iron Man*," he said. "There are still deadlines to be met there! Overall, I've liked writing work-for-hire comics in the Marvel Universe. I get to bring Arnim Zola in and no one stops me! I'll write more. It's fun, but it's time to start doing other stuff, too."

Will "other stuff" include a new creator-owned wilderness to roam in? We should all know by early 2000. ■ JIM McLAUCHLIN

**ANYWHERE HE WANTS** Waid and Busiek might flex their creative muscles. But is their feces throwing prowess up to snuff?

*Pokémon to take new direction next TV season: "Pika, pika, you little — holes," said adorable scamp.*

*Lucas puts out casting call for little people to play Jawas in "Episode II," outrages midget spokesman: "Actually, we prefer to be called freaky dwarfs," commented creepy, shrunken little human-thing.*



*Magic Cheerios discovered in fanboy's knapsack. "Got one! I got one!" cheered Ingo the Living Puppet, moments before being set upon and partially consumed by pigeons.*

# KURTAINCALL

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON THE COMIC INDUSTRY

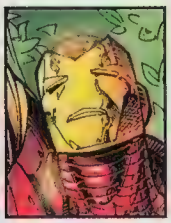
**Weep not for Marvel Comics. Dan Jurgens has signed on to replace Mark Waid as *Captain America* writer, and the Kurt Busiek holes on *Thunderbolts* and *Iron Man* have been filled with two comic vets.**

**THUNDERBOLTS** Good news for Thunderbolts fans: A fan is writing the book.

"I've loved the book right from #1!" exclaimed *Gambit* veteran Fabian Nicieza, who takes over with November's *Thunderbolts* #34. Nicieza will be reunited with artist Mark Bagley, his old *New Warriors* partner, who remains on the book. "I have many ideas of what I'd like to do based on what Kurt has already done."

Following up those ideas should be easy, as Busiek is handing Nicieza extensive notes of where the book was heading. "I'll probably follow 80 to 99 percent of what Kurt was up to, because I really like most of it," Nicieza promised. But he'll also carve his own path. "I'm going to increase the tension factor a bit," Nicieza said. "Hawkeye–much as I love the character–has been too perfect. He's been batting 1.000, but he'll strike out with the bases loaded and shake the team's confidence in him as a leader."

Nicieza also promises the gradual return of an old villain in a story arc that bridges almost all the way to *Thunderbolts* #50. "So I'm long-haul," he said. "There's no shortage of stuff here. Kurt had a thousand things percolating."



**IRON MAN** A new year will bring a new villain in *Iron Man*, as Marvel Knights editor Joe Quesada starts writing with January's #26.

"When I heard the book was available, I had these fanboy ideas of 'Gee, I'd love to do this book,'" Quesada chuckled. "So I cowered into [Editor] Bobbie Chase's office and asked if she'd be interested in a proposal."

She was. And she took it. And she took a new bad guy. "I always understood why Dr. Doom was the perfect Fantastic Four villain," Quesada said. "He was just Reed Richards, but after taking a wrong turn. Iron Man already has the Mandarin as a major bad guy, but there's not the close connection like there is with Reed and Doom. I want to give Iron Man someone who really connects in terms of villainy." Quesada stressed that for now, he's only on the book for four issues. "But if it's fun, if it's flowin'–maybe I'll stick around." Chase hopes he does. "If I can get him to do more, I will," she said. "'Cause his ideas are fabu." ■ JM

PHOTOS BY PAUL SCHRADER

# MARVEL CROSSOVERS MAKE FOR MUCHO MAYHEM

## Doom's back, Juggernaut splits

**DOOM PATROL:** Thor gets juggy with it.

Looks like it's good to be bad.

Dr. Doom and the Juggernaut take center stage as Marvel Comics shines a light on some major baddies in major fall crossovers.

The mayhem starts with "The Eighth Day," a September event set to barrel through *Thor* #17, *Iron Man* #22 and *Peter Parker: Spider-Man* #11 like a juggernaut.

Or rather, the Juggernaut. The X-Men's old foe is back, but this time he's only a fraction of the problem. "We're introduced to seven villains cut from the same cloth as Juggernaut," explained Joe Casey, who will finish the event by writing a September Juggernaut one-shot. "There are eight gods—including Juggernaut—vying for control of the Earth." But Juggy may not be so crazy about the competition. "Through the story, we see Juggernaut go back and forth," said Casey. "We don't know whose team he's on."

Speaking of switching teams, here's a chilling notion: Doctor Doom is the world's only hope. The "Heroes Reborn" world, that is.

Marvel is revisiting the "pocket universe" created when Jim Lee and Rob Liefeld shepherded four Marvel books for 13 issues in 1996 with November's "Heroes Reborn: Doomsday." The seven-issue event is bookended by *Heroes Reborn: Doomsday* and *Heroes Reborn: Doom* one-shots by writer Chris Claremont (*Fantastic Four*) and the artistic team of Mike McKone and Mark McKenna (*X-O Manowar*). In the middle, top-notch writers Joe Casey (*Cable*), Joe Kelly (*Deadpool*) and Fabian Nicieza (*Gambit*) will write five one-shots recounting the exploits of the heroes and villains who continue to populate the "Heroes Reborn" world.

And Claremont confirmed that Doom's role in the event will be that of savior, not destroyer. "He's the catalyst by which the survival of the world is ensured," Claremont said.

It seems Ashema, the Celestial who has been serving as the world's guardian, has her hands full with another Celestial, who sees the "Heroes Reborn" world as raw materials he can shape as he sees fit. To protect his turf, Doom may need to make tough choices. "Doom may have to do what's always proven most difficult for him—swallow his pride and accept help from someone else," Claremont said.

But Doom will not remain humble for long. By the series' conclusion, Doom—missing in action since the original "Heroes Reborn"—will return to the Marvel Universe. ■ **SCOTT AUBREY**

## THEBUZZBIN

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON THE COMIC INDUSTRY

**THE DARK MILLER RETURNS?** Could be. Rumor has it that famed *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* creator Frank Miller has one more Batman story done and in the drawer! He's just waiting for the right, post-2000 moment to spring it on DC.

**GRAYSON FLIES TO GOTHAM!** Word is leaking out of DC's Bat-office that after the yearlong "No Man's Land" story, year 2000 will see a new and rebuilt Gotham City! And when the Batman books return to their regular schedules, Devin Grayson (*Titans*) will be writing one monthly Batman title.

**BYRNE'S BONUS BUCKS!** Put legendary X-Men artist John Byrne back on an X-Men project and what do you get? Big bucks! Rumor has it Byrne has pre-sold the first eight issues worth of *X-Men: The Hidden Years* originals to collectors starved for Byrne X-Men art, even though he's only drawn the first two issues so far!

**DANIEL TO THE TENTH POWER!** Creator Tony Daniel was going to shelve *The Tenth* for a while and roll out a new title called *The Epitaph*. But reorder sales have been so strong, Daniel will continue to write and draw *The Tenth*, with *Epitaph* now going on the shelf.

**BABE ALERT!** Fans of buxom bombshells rejoice! Image's Avalon Studios is deep in negotiations with Todd McFarlane Productions to roll out a Aria/Angela crossover project featuring Avalon's top book and Spawn's angelic Spawn-hunter. We'll keep you posted.

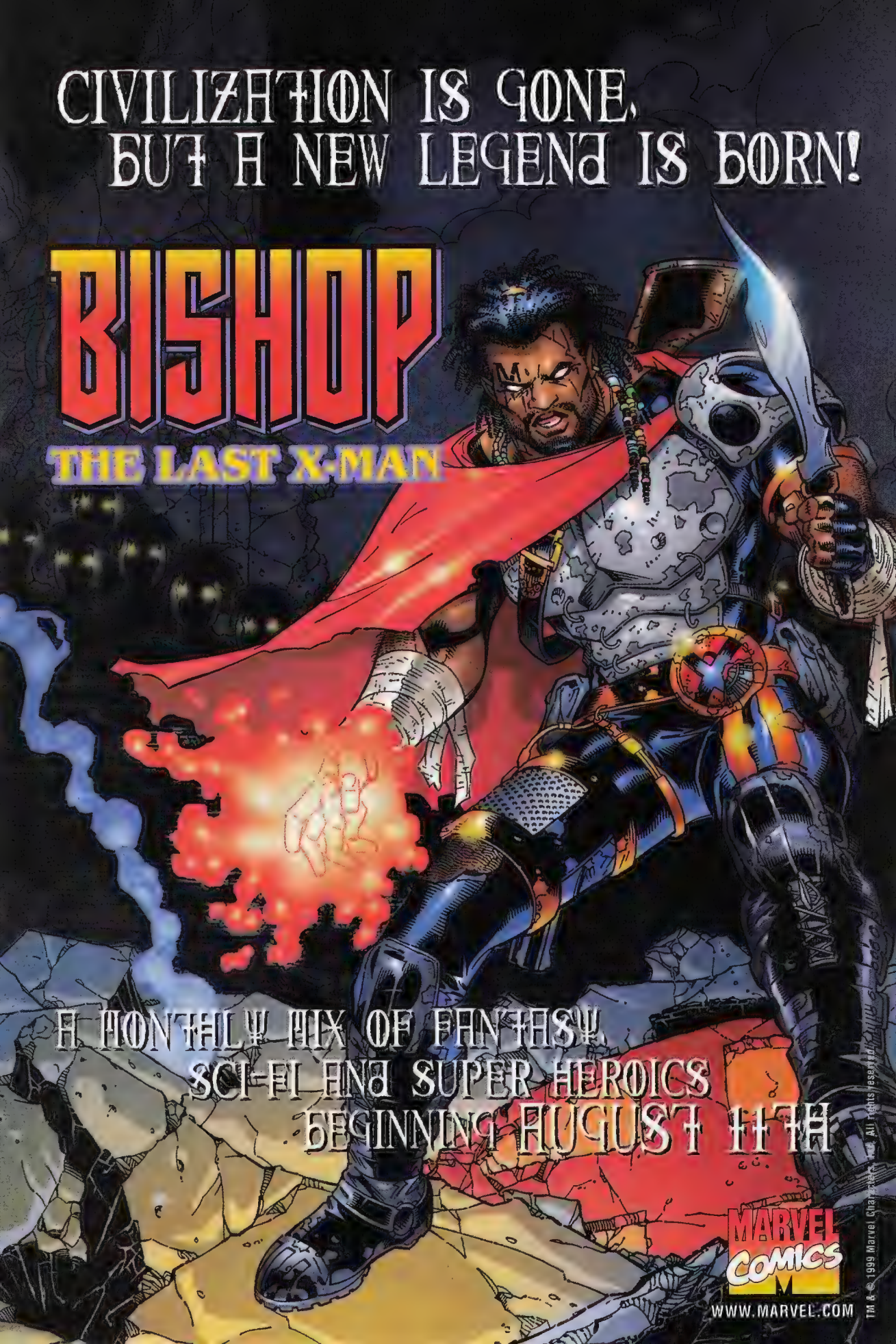
**AVALON EVOLVES!** While we're in the Avalon neighborhood, you should be advised that changes are brewing for the publisher. Early 2000 may see a new batch of titles and maybe even a new name for the Image imprint.

## THEYSAIDIT

IDLE CHATTER

"He writes like Norman Rockwell paints. His first DD plot is just so...charming. He's like this wholesome, middle-America guy who found Hollywood success, but he's unchanged. He's still middle-America."

—**JOE QUESADA**, on "Back to the Future" and upcoming *Daredevil* writer Bob Gale


CIVILIZATION IS GONE,
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# BYRNE'S RETURNS TO THE X-MEN WITH AN EYE ON 'HIDDEN YEARS'

## New series fills in story gaps of original team in the early 1970s

John Byrne back on the X-Men? You better believe it.

The legendary artist who teamed with writer Chris Claremont in the 1970s and '80s to put the "new" X-Men on top of the comic world returns to his roots this October on the ongoing *X-Men: The Hidden Years*. But this time, Byrne's handling the original team—Cyclops, Marvel Girl, Beast, Angel and Iceman.

"New fans are suddenly going to see a strange bunch of guys running around calling themselves X-Men," Byrne laughed. *Hidden Years* will fill in the early-'70s gap between [*Uncanny*] *X-Men* #67 and #93, a period where—inconceivable as it sounds today—new X-Men stories were put on hiatus due to low sales and the title featured only reprint material. "Our series begins right after the original stories ended," said Byrne. "I'll pick up a few pages from the end of #66, just so I can bring modern readers up to speed on these 'strange new heroes.'"

Plans for the new series center on a mixture of new and old characters. "Fans are a pretty canny bunch," Byrne said. "No matter what danger Cyclops gets into in this series, his modern appearances make it apparent that he'll survive, so I'll have to bring in other characters to take the heat. I also want to cross-pollinate them with the Marvel Universe of the time. There'll definitely be appearances by Spider-Man or maybe the Fantastic Four from time to time."

Byrne will both write and pencil *Hidden Years*, adding another book to a busy schedule that already has him writing *Hulk* and *Spider-Woman* and penciling *Amazing Spider-Man*. "I've been given special dispensation by the comic book industry to write every book under the sun!" Byrne laughed. "It'll be all-Byrne, all the time. A Byrne-ucopia!" ■ SCOTT BRICK

**BYRNE, BABY, BYRNE!** Another wonderful trip to the John.

# 'XENA' BATTLES ON IN NEW DARK HORSE SERIES

## Plotlines to mirror syndicated TV smash

If at first you don't succeed, battle on!

Popular TV heroine Xena takes another stab at comics with a new ongoing monthly this September from Dark Horse Comics. *Xena: Warrior Princess* marks the busty warrior's return to comics a year after the character's original Topps Comics series was discontinued. Writer John Wagner (*Judge Dredd*) will be joined by artists Joyce Chin (*Guy Gardner: Warrior*) and Walden Wong (*New Warriors*) for the new series.

*Xena* #1 will take place between the TV show's season finale and new fall premiere, filling the gaps in between. And the series will keep close ties, reflecting major plotlines from the show to keep the book within the framework of the Xena-verse.

Though new to *Xena*, Wagner is excited about the comic. "There are startling developments from the show that will spill over into the book," he said. Readers can expect anything. "Xena will battle weird Egyptian gods," Wagner said, "and journey to the far north for a deadly confrontation with the mighty Thor!" ■ BRIAN YOUNG

**WE LOVE LUCY** And so do boys worldwide – and Ellen DeGeneres.

# WHO SCREWED GOTHAM CITY?

I HATE WHEN THAT HAPPENS

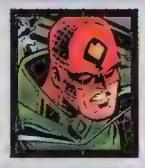
**Someone's got it in for Gotham City. Since a big earthquake, Gotham's been cut off from the U.S....but, according to DC sources, someone's been feeding the town with illegal supplies and was also behind Gotham getting the boot in the first place. Who's got the juice to influence that? *Wizard* lines up the suspects.**

**LEX LUTHOR** Why rule one major metropolis when you can have two? This egomaniac's got the deep pockets and ambition to rebuild Gotham–and be hailed a saint for it. **ODDS:** 2-1

**RA'S AL GHUL** He's a global terrorist and screwed Gotham before with that ebola plague in the "Contagion" storyline. Since he's looking to purify the world with mass genocide, Gotham could be an early experiment. **ODDS:** 4-1

**BLOCKBUSTER** This genius behemoth runs the small-time Blüdhaven, but may have his sights set on the big-time, especially when a big-time town like Gotham's ripe for the pickin' when nobody else wants it. **ODDS:** 5-1

**NICHOLAS SCRATCH** This extremist super-genius spread anti-Gotham sentiment through TV spots. His agenda could be far-reaching, but we kinda doubt it since he's pretty much a dumb character we wish got trapped in the wreckage. **ODDS:** 7-1



**KOBRA** When you're the head of a global terrorist organization, the best place to strike at the U.S. is get a foothold *inside* the U.S. Gotham's a free pass!But this guy can't even beat the Flash, so we tend to think he ain't the guy we're lookin' for. **ODDS:** 10-1

**VINCE McMAHON** No scheme is too evil for the WWF owner! He's sacrificed his daughter to undead wrestlers, started fights with bald, beer-wielding Texans and even called Ted Turner bad names on national TV! **ODDS:** Several hundred to one. ■ **THE WIZARD STAFF**

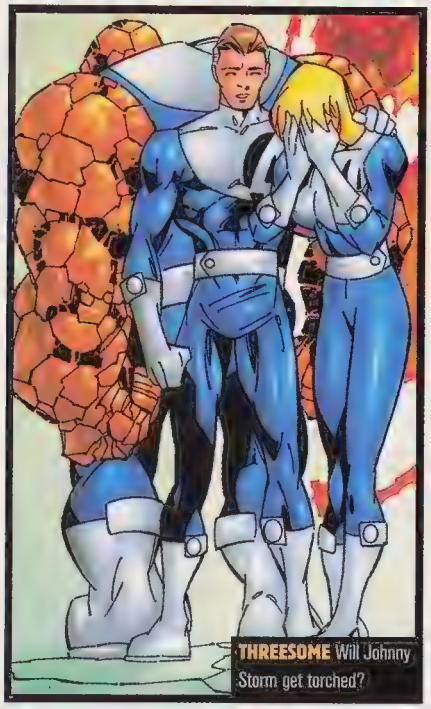
# NEWMAN DIES

There will be no more stories from the prolific pen of Paul S. Newman, who died of a heart attack on May 30, 1999. He was 75.

Widely recognized as comics' most productive writer, Newman wrote over 4,100 stories. His career began at DC Comics in 1947, and before long was writing at a pace of five stories per week, for as many as 12 publishers at once. Best known for his 26-year run on *Turok* for Gold Key Comics, Newman's extraordinary body of work was recognized by the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

Comics legend Jim Shooter said of Newman: "During *Turok*'s long run, the marketplace underwent dramatic changes. *Turok* was an all-weather, all-terrain title built to last. Paul was king of the comic book writers indeed." ■ **RICHARD HO**

# FANTASTIC FOUR BECOMES TRIO?



**THREESOME** Will Johnny Storm get torched?

Will Marvel Comics' Fantastic Four become the Fantastic Three? That's a question fans will likely be asking as the top-selling title hits #25 in November. A double-sized anniversary issue will bring about "fundamental and lasting changes" in the team's status quo, according to writer Chris Claremont.

Claremont would neither confirm nor deny rumors that a core member will depart the team, hinting only that the changes have been long foreshadowed. "As for who's at risk in the FF, that information exists in the body of issues currently in print. You want to know where we're going? Read where we've been."

Claremont was uncharacteristically tight-lipped, but the writer did say that *FF* #25 would involve "not only the team's oldest and most implacable foe"—apparently confirming long-swirling rumors of Dr. Doom's forthcoming return—"but also an antagonist of truly celestial proportions."

If indeed the team's lineup is altered, fans shouldn't be too shocked. Historically, the Fantastic Four's roster has been nearly as elastic as Mr. Fantastic's limbs. Since the series' inception in 1961, members have come and gone repeatedly. Medusa, the She-Hulk and even Dr. Doom himself [for one issue, (vol. 1) #114] have rotated on and off the roster.

If a spot opens up, one potential candidate to join the FF's ranks is the new Marvel Girl, who made her debut in June's *FF* #20. According to recent hints from Marvel's Web site, the character first appeared in *Fantastic Four* #15 as Valeria Von Doom, the alternate-timeline offspring of Dr. Doom and the Invisible Woman. "She will be a character to watch," Claremont promised. ■ **DEAN SIMAKIS**

# HALLOWEEN HOEDOWN

HAVE FUN! WIN PRIZES!

**Yeah, yeah, Halloween's a few months off. But the eighth annual *Wizard* Halloween Costume Contest is well underway! Where else can you dress up like your favorite character and show the world what a nut you are? And this year's Grand Prize Winner will take home a monstrous video game stash, including a Nintendo 64, a Sony PlayStation and a Sega Dreamcast complete with tons of extra controllers, memory cards and five killer games apiece. And heck, we'll even throw in a funky Atari 2600 and Intellivision game package. And yeah, there'll be a buncha runner-up prizes too, like a $250 Toys 'R Us gift certificate, signed comic books, action figures and more!**

Anyway, here's what you gotta do:

1) Dress up like anyone (or anything) you want–comic book character, video game character, something out of a book or movie, whatever (the more original your getup, the better your chances of winning).
2) The actual costume itself must be **HOMEMADE**, but you can add store-bought items to accent your outfit. For example, you can't go out and buy a Batman mask for your Batman costume, but you can use a toy gun for your Tomb Raider costume. Got it?
3) Have someone photograph you in your costume (Polaroids will **NOT** be accepted!), then write your name, age, full address, phone number and name of the character you're dressed as on a small piece of paper, attach it to the back of the photo (Don't write on the photo!) and send it to the address below. All photos must be color prints, and we suggest taking multiple shots with multiple poses in case some pictures suck. And remember that magic five-letter word: "focus."
4) To be eligible to win, **WE MUST RECEIVE YOUR PHOTO BY AUGUST 13, 1999**, so get sewin'!

Send your entry to:
Costume Contest 8
c/o Wizard Entertainment
151 Wells Ave.
Congers, NY 10920-0118
Check out our www.wizardworld.com Web site for more details!

# ENNIS AND DILLON PITCH IN FOR KOSOVO

**COMICS CAUSE** Creators chip in for Kosovo refugees.

As the world focuses on the tragedies endured by the refugees from Kosovo, comic fans can do their part by purchasing the *Kosovo Refugee Aid Charity Comic.*

Blue Silver Entertainment will release the comic at Galaxion '99 in October, Europe's largest sci-fi convention. The book will feature short stories by various creators, including Blue Silver Publisher Francis Lee (*Midnight*), and a first-time collaboration by comic giants Garth Ennis (*Preacher*) and Dave Gibbons (*Watchmen*). Famed fantasy artist Chris Achilleos, who has refused to do comic covers until now, will paint this one. All stories will center on the theme of what it's like to be a refugee, and all profits will go directly to providing refugee aid.

"With this comic we want to highlight the plight of the refugees and raise money to help where we can," said Lee. To find out more about how to get the comic, e-mail Lee at f.lee@bluesilver.com or write 32 Northfield Ave., London, UK WL39RL Attn: Lee, Blue Silver. ■ **BY**

# LASERS BLAST WILDSTORM!

No one should be eager to have their eyeballs split with a laser beam. But we're talking about people in California, so...

Four-eyed geeks at WildStorm Productions have been lining up for a chance to undergo treatment for near-sightedness and the inability to see deadlines more than a few days away. *Sci-Tech* writer Brandon Choi, *Danger Girl* penciler J. Scott Campbell, and Editor-in-Chief Scott Dunbier are among many WildStormers to have gone in for "Lasek," a procedure that corrects vision problems using high-powered lasers. When successful, the need for glasses is erased.

"They slice off the top of your eye, and pull it back like a flap," Dunbier said. "They then shave off however much they need to make it level with your cornea. I don't have 20/20 vision yet, but it's been improving every day." The results are so impressive, employees are paying for the operation out-of-pocket—it's not covered under insurance because it's considered "cosmetic."

The holdout? WildStorm honcho and *Divine Right* penciler Jim Lee. "I buy my contact lenses in a two-year supply," Lee said. "It seems silly to waste them. Maybe I'll consider it later when they run out." Wuss.

■ **JAKE ROSSEN**

**VISION QUEST** The eyes have it at WildStorm...surgery that is.

# NEWS&NOTES

## ACCLAIM COMICS

The world's worst superhero team returns as *Quantum and Woody* relaunches in September with (huh?) #32. Original creators Christopher Priest and M.D. Bright preside.

## BONGO COMICS

Legendary humor cartoonist Sergio Aragones (*Mad*, *Groo*) lends his considerable talents to *Bart Simpson's Treehouse of Horror* #5, Bongo's annual Halloween event.

## CHAOS! COMICS

*Armageddon* #1 (of 4) kicks off the story arc that will destroy the Chaos! Cosmos! Look for it in September.

## DARK HORSE COMICS

Batman and Tarzan unite in a four-issue mini-series debuting in September. **Ron Marz** (*Green Lantern*) writes.

## DC COMICS

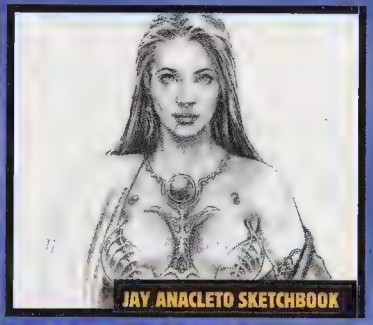
**Dan Jurgens** swims onto *Aquaman* with issue #63. . . *Son of Superman* is a massive October hardcover project written by **Howard Chaykin** (*American Flagg!*) with art by the *Promethea* team of J.H. Williams and Mick Gray.

## IMAGE COMICS

**Alan Moore** pens a four-ish *Deathblow* (remember him?) mini-series starting in October. . . **Drew Struzan** ("Star Wars" movie posters) contributes covers to *Blue*, a three-issue mini-series launching in August featuring a teenager who suddenly finds out she's an android. . . When a Martian shrink-ray hits in *Savage Dragon* #67, the Dragon is reduced to 5 inches tall! But creator **Erik Larsen** promises the book won't suck! See what "won't suck" looks like in September.

• Avalon Studios

Just 'cause you love him soooo much, the work of *Aria* artist **Jay Anacleto** will be featured in September's *Jay Anacleto Sketchbook*.



JAY ANACLETO SKETCHBOOK

## MARVEL COMICS

Marvel's massive, 12-issue *Secret Wars* mini-series gets collected in paperback in September. **Salvador Larroca** (*Fantastic Four*) contributes a new cover.

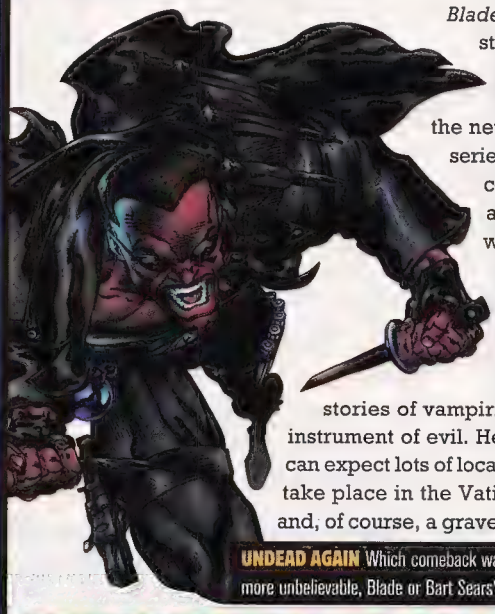
## PENNY FARTHING PRESS

Horror legend **Bernie Wrightson** does up the cover for September's *The Victorian* #7. An edition of 750 copies signed by Wrightson will also be available.

# MARVEL WIELDS 'BLADE'

## Sears stakes claim on vampire hunter

What do you do when a comic character becomes so popular his movie grosses $70 million? If you're Marvel Comics and the character is Blade, you give that bad boy his own book.



**UNDEAD AGAIN** Which comeback was more unbelievable, Blade or Bart Sears?

*Blade the Vampire Hunter* hits the streets in October compliments of Bart Sears (*Spider-Woman*), who both writes and pencils the new ongoing series. While the series will not completely shed its comic book roots—pitting Blade against Dracula—some things will be updated. "It's still Marvel's Blade," insisted editor Ralph Macchio, "but we are moving him logically closer to the movie incarnation."

Macchio said to expect gothic stories of vampiric powers using Blade as an instrument of evil. He also indicated that readers can expect lots of locales: Action in early issues will take place in the Vatican, the halls of S.H.I.E.L.D. and, of course, a graveyard. Hey, this is dark fantasy after all. ■ **TRENT D. McNEELEY**

# THUMBINGOFF

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

## THUMBS UP

**'X-MEN' MOVIE** A comic book movie. . . that will happen? Yep! It's right here, and it's the real deal! Patrick Stewart–*every* fanboy's choice to portray Professor Xavier–is on board, so you know it'll be top-shelf. "X-Men" has casting, a production date, the whole magilla–coming soon to a theater near you!

**MARVEL GAME** The new *Marvel Super Heroes Adventure Game* from Wizards of the Coast gives fanboys a fast-paced, fun geekfest *and* a mini-Marvel encyclopedia. By playing the game, fans can find out oodles of cool info on the Negative Zone, Genosha and even the color of Sue Richards' panties.

**CREATORS WHO CARE** Alex Ross helps UNICEF by auctioning his *Superman: Peace on Earth* art. Garth Ennis pitches in on a Kosovo refugee relief comic. George Pérez spearheads charity signings at *every* con he attends. We applaud you all for taking the time to care.

## THUMBS DOWN

**RED SKULL** Okay, in *Captain America*, he's a god trying to dominate the galaxy, then he gets disintegrated. The next month in *X-Men*, he's suddenly un-disintegrated and trying to dominate Douglok and the S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier? Uhhh, did we miss something?

**'BATTLE CHASERS' #6** So after Joe Madureira-starved audiences wait *months* for the late-as-hell *Battle Chasers* #6, they're "treated" to. . . a mere 12 pages of Joe Mad? A slap in the face like that leaves a sting that just won't go away.

**SARDINES** Fish in a can? What rocket scientist dreamed up this concept? They look gross, they smell gross, and they've got a funny-sounding name. And what's up with that sauce? Two words: Icky-poo.

# 'LEGION' RECRUITS NEW TALENT

**LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE** New writers Abnett and Lanning have the vaccine.

Sometimes it's not enough just to get some fresh faces in tights. You need 'em behind the scenes, too.

At least DC Comics seems to think so, as Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning (*Resurrection Man*) take over writing the 31st-century "Legion" family books. The pair will chronicle both *Legion of Super-Heroes* and *Legionnaires* this October. Newcomer Olivier Coipel will illustrate both books for their first big story arc, "Legion of the Damned," with the whole shindig kicking off in *Legion of Super-Heroes* #122.

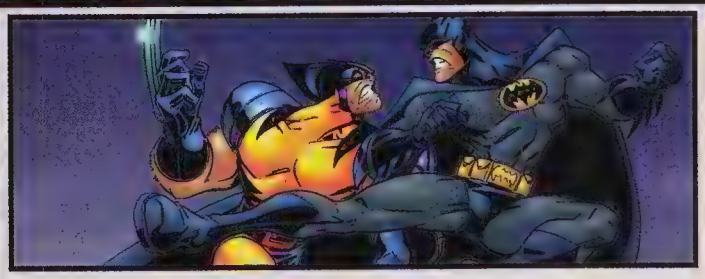
"'Damned' focuses on an invasion by a brand-new, relentless alien race called The Blight," Abnett explained. "The Blight are truly alien. Their motives and methodology are completely at odds with the United Planets, and there is no reasoning with them. The consequences of this invasion are going to be long-term for the Legion and their universe."

Originally, Abnett and Lanning were tapped only for this story arc, but their enthusiasm persuaded Editor Mike McAvennie to keep them aboard. "Mike asked what we would do if we were able to continue beyond the 'Damned' story," Lanning recalled. "We pitched some ideas on the spot. That was our audition for taking over the writing chores on the books."

Longtime Legion fans—among the most faithful in comics—might be wary of new writers. But Abnett and Lanning are also fans of the characters. "We hope to experiment with group dynamics and interaction," Abnett said. "We should remember that the Legionnaires, for the most part, are still kids. They've got the same hang-ups and problems teenagers today have, and by exploring them, maybe we can develop them as rounded, individual characters." ■ JR

# SUPERHERO SHOWDOWN!

FREE FOR ALL!



Gut shots! Nut shots! Kidney punches! Busted teeth! And you pick the winner!

Tired of lame-ass inter-company crossover battles where no one wins? Yeah, us too. So, in the spirit of our ever-popular "Last Man Standing" department, we're putting the power where it belongs–in the hands of the fans!

Yep, Wizard's "Superhero Showdown" is up and running on the Web. Just go to www.wizardworld.com and you can determine who'll be the ultimate fighter in a 64-hero battle to the finish! Think Superman has what it takes to take it all? Or does an adamantium-laced Wolverine hack his way to the top? Log on and vote! Fan votes will determine the winners in a huge, tournament-style battle! It's your chance to pretend you're Don King, without getting investigated by the FBI! Just bring your own spit bucket to www.wizardworld.com for the "Superhero Showdown" and...let's get ready to rummmmmble!

**CAT MAN DO** I practice my rap on a Catwoman mannequin. Then I cop a quick feel.

PHOTOS BY PAUL SCIBRALDI

# GRADUATION DAY

## Kubert School student Min Ku jumps into the fire at DC Comics

Breaking into comics? I've tried it all: Interning at Marvel, mailing countless submissions, frequenting conventions. But the smartest move I made was investing three years at the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art. And today—the day the Kubert School graduating class visits the DC Comics office for one-on-one portfolio reviews with editors—it all pays off.

I should be able to establish a number of contacts at DC and—who knows?—maybe even walk out with an assignment!

**7:15 a.m.** Having prepared a portfolio with samples of my penciling, inking, lettering, coloring, and painting work (Joe Kubert always said that the more skills we show, the better our chances!), I'm ready. I dress in a dark blue collared shirt with a matching tie and black dress pants. Looking professional shows an editor you're serious. But I'm a little nervous as I board a bus for New York City for our 10 AM appointment.

**9:45 a.m.** Whew! Made it with 15 minutes to spare! I notice I'm only the second student here. Where *is* everybody? And more importantly, where's the teacher?

**10:00 a.m.** Okay...around 15 students have now shown, but still no teacher! I notice everyone is wearing "school clothes" except for me and one other person in dress clothes. We're elected to go to DC's reception desk and get permission to come up. Guess clothes *do* matter.

**10:03 a.m.** We're told by the receptionist that our interview isn't until 11 a.m.! Huh?

**10:20 a.m.** Guess who joins the party? Our teacher! He tells us that the appointment *is* at 11 a.m. and that we were *told* 10 a.m. so we'd be on time! Grrrrr!

**11:00 a.m.** The DC Comics portfolio review begins! The first person I see is Paul Kupperberg, custom comics editor. He goes through my stuff and points out faults. Ouch! My expectations of getting work go in the toilet. Paul tells me that my characterization of the Batman Beyond characters is "off" and that my pages look stiff. At the end of the critique, I offer him a sample packet, which he gently turns down. I feel crushed. I guess I'm not ready. On the plus side, Paul offers to make me copies of the actual "Batman Beyond" model sheets. If he's willing to do that, he must think I have potential, right? Right?

**12:10 p.m.** Frustration! Each editor spends 15-20 minutes per student, and there are only 3-4 editors

every hour. With 30 students to go through, I've gotten one critique thus far. I use the time to lick my wounds.

**2:10 p.m.** Harvey Richards, an assistant editor, is ready to head out. I hand him a sample packet. He glances at my work and is impressed! He asks to see my whole portfolio! Cool! Harvey loves my color stuff and recommends I show my work to Color Editor Mark Chiarello. Being well prepared, I hand him a special color packet, and Harvey agrees to pass it on. I feel like a genius for sliding my way into the review and launching my Chiarello packet! Hoo-hah!

**2:50 p.m.** I'm the next student to be seen by DC Executive Editor Mike Carlin. I'm nervous because he leaves at 3 p.m. and he's still critiquing the guy in front of me! Zoinks!

**2:57 p.m.** Yes! Mike is able to see me! He looks through my stuff and tells me my work is terrific! Then I hear a student cry out, "Look! Min has *two* editors interested in his stuff!" I look up and see Paradox Press editor Jim Higgins standing across the table, having stopped the critique he was giving to see my portfolio! Too cool!

After Mike finished the review, he asked me for a sample packet! Yes, Mike Carlin asked *me* for samples! Mind-blowing! As I got up, Higgins yelled out, "I want to see YOU next!" Boy...I felt like a star!

**3:10 p.m.** Higgins tells me about Paradox Press' "Big Book" series where he's able to use new talent because it consists of a lot of short stories—a perfect vehicle to test out a new artist! This could definitely lead to something! Maybe my first job? Hmm...?

**3:25 p.m.** Next up is Ron Perraza from the creative services department. He asks me the toughest question I've heard in six years of portfolio reviews. "What are the biggest weaknesses in your pencils?" How do I answer this without sounding like an amateur? If I tell him it's anatomy or perspective, will he respect me *less* as an artist? I try my best to stall and avoid the question altogether.

**4:10 p.m.** With one last packet remaining, I notice editor Andy Helfer. I showed him my work at a convention a week earlier, and he's more than happy to accept my samples. He tells me to stop by his office to say "hi" sometime, and he made me feel like I was "one of the guys." Nice fella.

Not a bad way to end the day! I've gotten a few knocks, and tons of praise. It's a great feeling to know that I'm on the right track, and I've made a lot of contacts. But now the important part starts—I have to apply what I've learned from the critiques and prepare new samples that'll look even *better* than the ones I have now! Then I can call the editors and set up appointments to keep the process going until one of these guys finally breaks down and gives me a chance! Learning and persistence is the key. I intend to follow through all the way! ■ MIN KU

**SHAKE DOWN** I quickly learn a $20 bribe goes a long way...and gets your car parked.

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Home phone ( ) -

Business phone ( ) -

Your annual salary $ ,
Other income‡ + $ ,
Total household income $ ,

Employer

(If self-employed, please state the nature of your business.)

Position# Years there Source of other income‡

‡Alimony, child support, or separate maintenance income need not be revealed if you do not wish it considered as a basis for repayment.
#If student, please specify the name of your school and year of graduation.

Please send an additional card at no extra cost for: Relationship:

X Date / /

MY SIGNATURE MEANS THAT I AGREE TO THE CONDITIONS APPEARING ON THIS APPLICATION.

Please complete only if you have moved or changed employers in the last three years.

Previous address

City State ZIP

Previous employer Years there

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual fee | None. |
| † Annual Percentage Rate (APR) | 14.99% fixed rate for purchases. |
| Grace period for repayment of balance for purchases | At least 25 days, if each month, we receive payment in full of your New Balance Total by the Payment Due Date. |
| Method of computing the balance for purchases | Average Daily Balance (including new transactions). |
| Transaction fees for cash advances and fees for paying late or exceeding the credit limit | Transaction fee for Bank and ATM cash advances: 2% of each cash advance (minimum $2). Transaction fee for credit card cash advance checks: 2% of each cash advance (minimum $2, maximum $25. Late-payment fee: $29. Over-the-credit-limit fee: $29. |
| Transaction fee for purchases | Transaction fee for the purchase of wire transfers, money orders, bets, lottery tickets, and casino gaming chips: 2% of each such purchase (minimum $2). |

**†-MORE APR INFORMATION-**

The current promotional Annual Percentage Rate (APR) offer for cash advance checks and balance transfers is 3.9% through your first 4 statement closing dates, commencing the month after your account is opened. When your minimum monthly payment is not received by the close of the first complete billing cycle following its Payment Due Date, or when the promotional offer expires, whichever occurs first, the APR that will be applied to both new and outstanding cash advance balances (consisting of cash advance checks and balance transfer transactions) will be 14.99%. MBNA may allocate your payment to balances (including new transactions) with lower APRs before balances with a higher APR.

**-CONDITIONS-**

I have read this application, and everything I have stated in it is true. I authorize MBNA America Bank, N.A. (MBNA) to check my credit, employment history, or any other information and to report to others such information and credit experience with me. I understand that the acceptance or use of any card issued will be subject to the terms of this application and the Credit Card Agreement that will be sent with the card, and I agree to be responsible for all charges incurred according to such terms. I am at least 18 years of age. I consent to and authorize MBNA, and its affiliates to monitor and/or record my telephone conversations with any of their representatives to better ensure quality service. **Information about me or my account may be shared among MBNA and its related companies for marketing or administrative purposes. I may prohibit such sharing of information, other than information pertaining solely to transactions or experiences between me and MBNA (or an MBNA-related company), by writing to MBNA at PO Box 15342, Wilmington, DE 19850 and including my name, address, home phone number, and the applicable MBNA account number(s).** I accept that MBNA may, at its discretion, periodically consider any card for an automatic upgrade. The information in this application is accurate as of 04/99 and may have changed after that date. For more current information, please call MBNA at 1-800-523-7666. TTY users, please call 1-800-833-6262.

A BATTLE OF HYPOTHETICAL PROPORTIONS

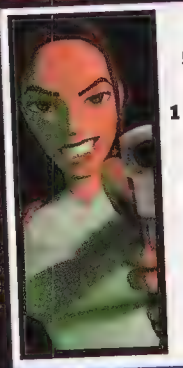
# LAST WOMAN STANDING

comic battles you never thought you'd see

## LARA CROFT VS. RED MONIKA

### THE COMBATANTS

TALE OF THE TAPE



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5'9" | HEIGHT | 5'7" |
| 110 lbs. | WEIGHT | 115 lbs. |
| 69" | REACH | 67" |
| 2 | COMIC APPEARANCES | 4 |
| 27 | # OF NUDE WEBSITES | 0 |

A spoiled socialite with a decadent lifestyle, Lara Croft's vacation plans shattered when her plane went down, stranding her in a frozen wasteland. Battling back to civilization alone, Lara evolved from a selfish, frivolous party girl to the premier archaeologist/adventurer in the world through rigorous training. Uncovering legendary artifacts and blowing holes in inhuman foes has now become a regular day on the job for the world's most dangerous tomb raider.

One of the top mercenary/thieves in the world, little is known of the woman called Red Monika, save that she started her career at a young age and has come to rely on the one person she can trust: herself.

**tha winnah...** Dropping in through a crack in the ceiling, the catlike Lara Croft lands on the hard stone floor, a small cloud of dust at her feet the only thing revealing her arrival. Twin guns drawn, she surveys the ancient crypt, knowing the inevitable showdown with her rival, the thief Red Monika, is at hand. Muscles tensed to respond to the first sign of danger, Croft explores every corner of the darkened room: nothing. Hours pass as she lies waiting for her opponent. Still not a hint of Monika. Lara holsters her guns and stretches out her now-cramped leg and back muscles. Nothing. Lara pulls out a sandwich and starts reading *Hannibal*, the *Silence of the Lambs* sequel. More hours pass. Still not a hint of Monika. Fed up, Croft leaves, with the loser—by default—being the insultingly late "Battle Chaser."

this month's battle drawn by JIM BALENT

# FIRSTLOOK

# MACHINA REX

## Evolution goes bonkers, as humanity's last chance for survival lies in the hands (and robotic heart) of a dead young boy

Sometimes dead is just better.

Just ask Rex, the preteen star of Joe Kelly (*X-Men*) and Duncan Rouleau's (*Alpha Flight*) new ongoing series, *Machina Rex*. The once-dead kid's been reanimated by microscopic robots living in his heart. These nanites can allow him to do just about anything he wants—he can arm himself with fantastic weapons or fling himself to the moon. And on the bizarre world within *Machina Rex*, the li'l guy's gonna need all the help he can get. "It's sort of this over-the-top, crazy adventure with a little dash of camp thrown in," says Kelly of his first creator-owned title, "balanced out by some really dark, weird stuff."

Debuting this November from Artis Studios, a new Image Comics imprint, *Machina Rex* looks at an Earth where evolution hasn't stopped and machines think for themselves. Humanity's reign as a dominant species is coming to a close, and Rex could be mankind's ultimate hope against enslavement. But his revival brings up a very important question: "Is this kid the greatest weapon ever created, or is he going to be man's savior?" asks Kelly. "He could be the Messiah or the devil. It all depends on how he develops with the programming in these robots."

Hunting Rex down is a shadow ops group called Providence that wants the kid dead. On his side, however, are Six—a Providence agent assigned to assassinate Rex but won over by his compassion—and Mia Moore, a diva supreme. Toss in an arch villain named Zag.RS, a freaky monkey called Bobo Haha and an alligator librarian, and you've got just a taste of this strange new world.

"You're going to see things in this book you're not going to see in other books," says Kelly. "We definitely mess around with the fourth wall, with things that sort of address the reader directly. Kind of like hidden messages in the artwork and things like that."

But before you get too comfortable with Rex and his cohorts, be warned: this ain't your typical funnybook. "Every time you think you know what this book is about," says Kelly, "we want to blindside you and show you something you never expected."

*Massachusetts-based writer Scott Aubrey always wanted to be mankind's savior. Sorrell Booke, on the other hand, just wanted eggs.*

BY SCOTT AUBREY AND SORRELL BOOKE

**NO MONKEY?** Yes, yes–there's a monkey. He's Bobo Haha (shown opposite), but the book stars (above from left) Six, Mia Moore and Rex the maybe-messiah.

## REX READS

**THE DILLY-O**

*Machina Rex*, a monthly from writer Joe Kelly and penciler Duncan Rouleau, is set to debut this fall from Image Comics' new imprint, Artis Studios.

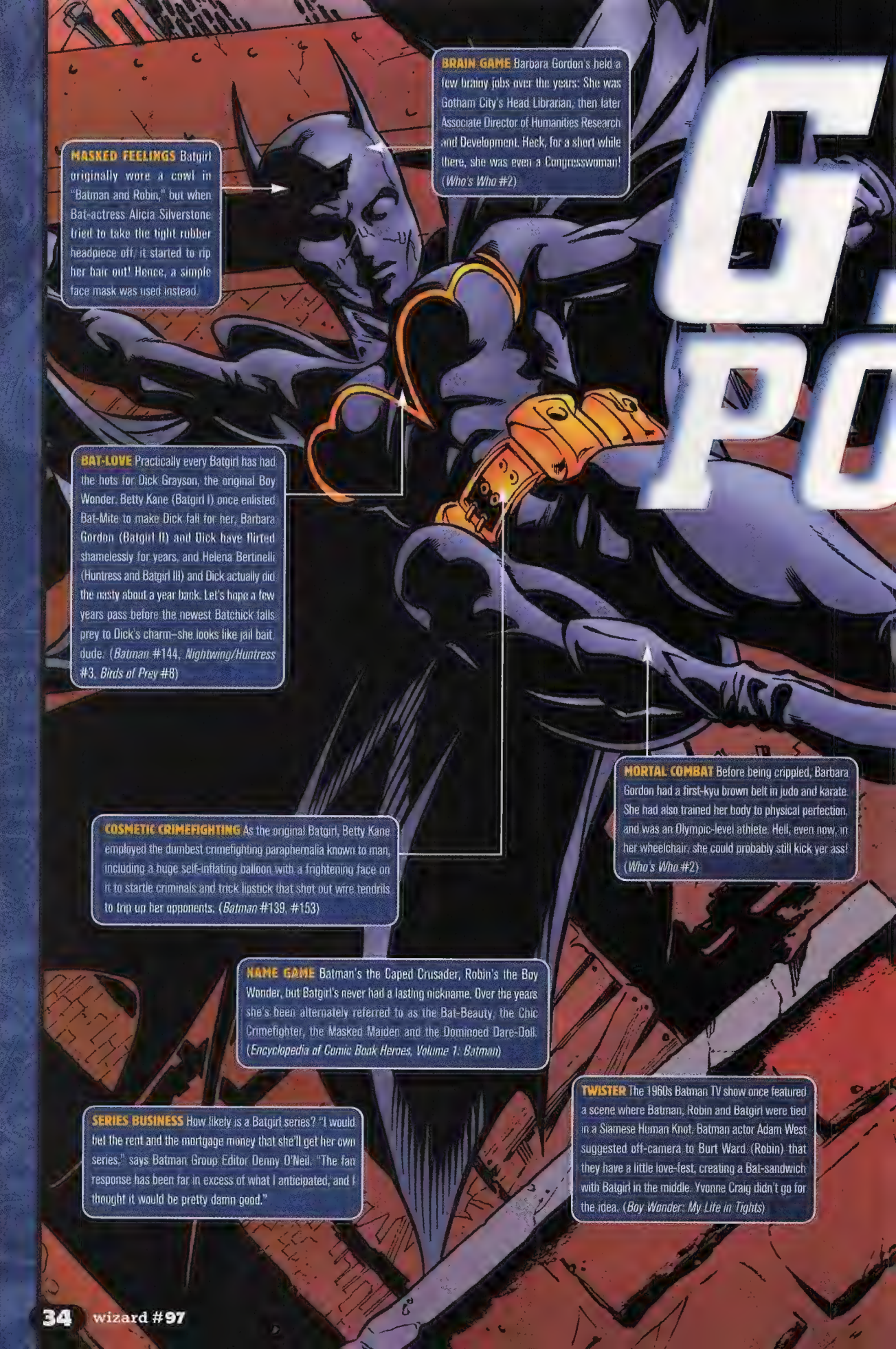
**WHY YOU CARE**

The high-profile Kelly, who made a name for himself on Marvel's *X-Men* and *Deadpool*, adds Rex to his upcoming work on Cliffhanger's *SteamPunk* and DC's *Action Comics*.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Kelly and Rouleau first worked together a few years back on a Juggernaut one-shot for Marvel. They also paired on a 10-pager in DC's recent *JSA 80-Page Giant*.

BUBBA
DR
SOWD



**BRAIN GAME** Barbara Gordon's held a few brainy jobs over the years: She was Gotham City's Head Librarian, then later Associate Director of Humanities Research and Development. Heck, for a short while there, she was even a Congresswoman! (*Who's Who* #2)

**MASKED FEELINGS** Batgirl originally wore a cowl in "Batman and Robin," but when Bat-actress Alicia Silverstone tried to take the tight rubber headpiece off, it started to rip her hair out! Hence, a simple face mask was used instead.

**BAT-LOVE** Practically every Batgirl has had the hots for Dick Grayson, the original Boy Wonder. Betty Kane (Batgirl I) once enlisted Bat-Mite to make Dick fall for her, Barbara Gordon (Batgirl II) and Dick have flirted shamelessly for years, and Helena Bertinelli (Huntress and Batgirl III) and Dick actually did the nasty about a year back. Let's hope a few years pass before the newest Batchick falls prey to Dick's charm–she looks like jail bait, dude. (*Batman* #144, *Nightwing/Huntress* #3, *Birds of Prey* #8)

**MORTAL COMBAT** Before being crippled, Barbara Gordon had a first-kyu brown belt in judo and karate. She had also trained her body to physical perfection, and was an Olympic-level athlete. Hell, even now, in her wheelchair, she could probably still kick yer ass! (*Who's Who* #2)

**COSMETIC CRIMEFIGHTING** As the original Batgirl, Betty Kane employed the dumbest crimefighting paraphernalia known to man, including a huge self-inflating balloon with a frightening face on it to startle criminals and trick lipstick that shot out wire tendrils to trip up her opponents. (*Batman* #139, #153)

**NAME GAME** Batman's the Caped Crusader, Robin's the Boy Wonder, but Batgirl's never had a lasting nickname. Over the years she's been alternately referred to as the Bat-Beauty, the Chic Crimefighter, the Masked Maiden and the Dominoed Dare-Doll. (*Encyclopedia of Comic Book Heroes, Volume 1: Batman*)

**SERIES BUSINESS** How likely is a Batgirl series? "I would bet the rent and the mortgage money that she'll get her own series," says Batman Group Editor Denny O'Neil. "The fan response has been far in excess of what I anticipated, and I thought it would be pretty damn good."

**TWISTER** The 1960s Batman TV show once featured a scene where Batman, Robin and Batgirl were tied in a Siamese Human Knot. Batman actor Adam West suggested off-camera to Burt Ward (Robin) that they have a little love-fest, creating a Bat-sandwich with Batgirl in the middle. Yvonne Craig didn't go for the idea. (*Boy Wonder: My Life in Tights*)

# RL WER

## Everything you did (and didn't) wanna know about Batgirl

By Scott Brick and the Wizard staff
Illustration by Matt Haley and Aaron Lopresti

**NO MAN'S LASS** Alex Maleev, who penciled the first "No Man's Land" arc, designed the new Batgirl costume.

**BAD BREAK** Barbara Gordon's spine shattered when the Joker shot her at point-blank range. In a wheelchair ever since, she's made the most of her situation. She currently serves as Oracle, feeding the Bat-team and Black Canary priceless information gleaned from her vast online resources. (*Batman: The Killing Joke*, entire *Birds of Prey* run)

**BIRTHDAY** Barbara Gordon debuted simultaneously on both the Batman TV show and in comic books, back in 1967. She was useful to stop sagging ratings and to silence the rumors that Batman and Robin might be gay. (*Detective Comics* #359)

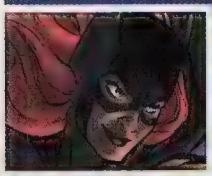
**FATGIRL** Before shooting "Batman and Robin," Batgirl actress Alicia Silverstone appeared at the 1996 Academy Awards presentations noticeably plumper, carrying a few extra pounds. Trash tabloids began running headlines like "Batman and Fatgirl" and "Look out, Batman! Here comes Buttgirl!"

## CHEEK to CHIC

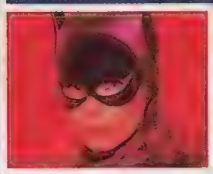
*Batgirls through the years*

**BETTY KANE**
The Golden Age Bat-Girl retired to play pro tennis, thank God. Heck, we bet even Monica Seles kicked her ass.

**BATWOMAN**
Aunt to Betty, circus performer Kathy Kane inherited dough and became a vigilante. She didn't last long.



**BARBARA GORDON**
Fought crime for kicks until the Joker shattered her spine with a bullet.



**YVONNE CRAIG**
Just when you admire her purple, glittery spandex, you're reminded she almost drowned in a vat of caviar.

**ANIMATED BATGIRL**
Wouldja believe this cartoon chick is voiced by hottie actress Melissa Gilbert?

**ALICIA SILVERSTONE**
She's, uhh... Alfred's niece? Oh well–she was great in "Clueless," right?

**ORACLE**
Wheelchair-bound, Barbara Gordon now saves the world regularly as a card-carryin' member of the JLA.

**HUNTRESS**
She's got a Gotham-sized chip on her shoulder and she couldn't hack it as Batgirl, but what's not to love?

CRAIG AND SILVERSTONE PHOTOS COURTESY OF FOTO FANTASIES

# WOMEN OF ACTION

What are you doing this summer?

Lady Pendragon

ISSUE # 4
AUGUST 1999

MATT HAWKINS
JOHN STINSMAN

ISSUE # 1
JULY 1999

ALLEY CAT

ALLEY BAGGETT
MATT HAWKINS
ROBERT NAPTON
GREG ARONOWITZ

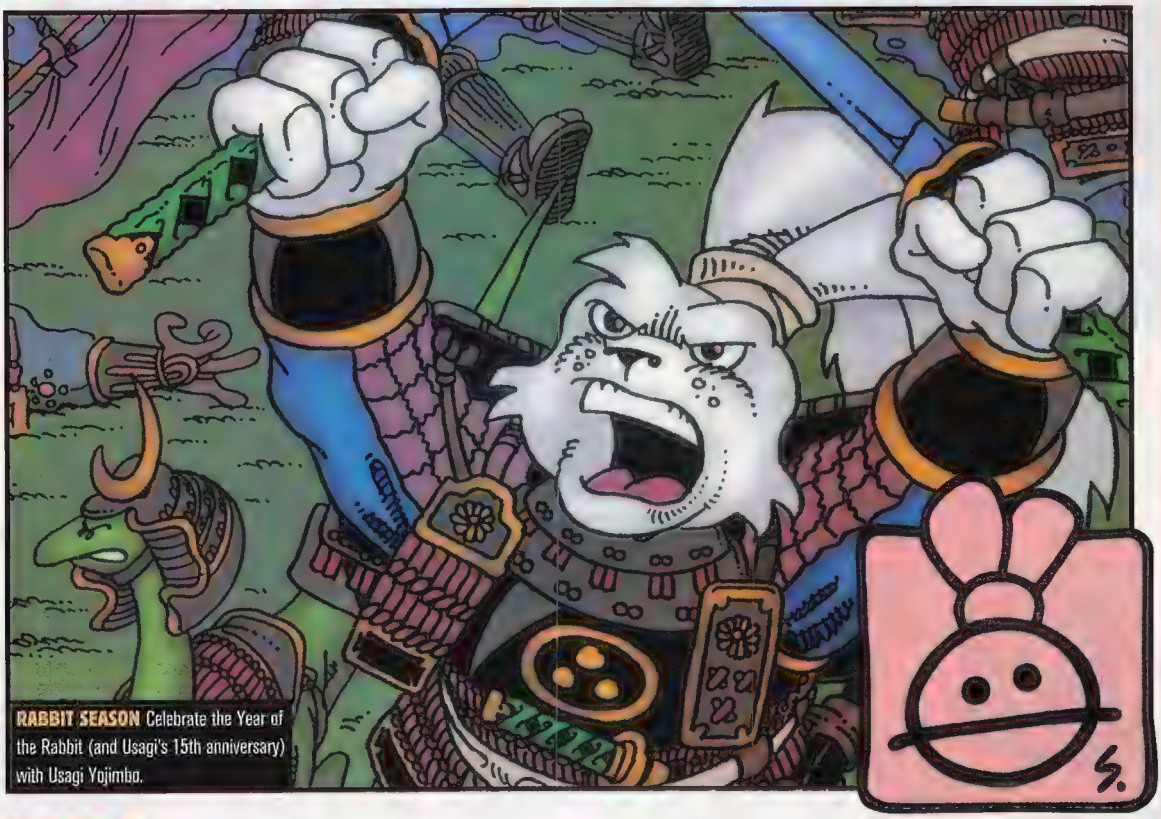
Blue

ISSUE # 1
AUGUST 1999

GREG ARONOWITZ
EDWIN ROSELL
JASON JOHNSON

# STRIPTEASE

## STARRING USAGI YOJIMBO



**RABBIT SEASON** Celebrate the Year of the Rabbit (and Usagi's 15th anniversary) with Usagi Yojimbo.

### WHO?

Miyamoto Usagi, *ronin*.

### WHAT?

This isn't any cute and cuddly bunny! Usagi is a *ronin*, or masterless samurai, in feudal Japan. After the death of his lord, Usagi walks the "warrior's road," struggling to maintain his honor in a violent world full of swordplay and magic, which includes everything from cat ninjas to rhino bounty hunters.

Celebrating his 15th anniversary this year, Usagi was born as creator Stan Sakai's contribution to the funny-animal anthology comic *Albedo* back in 1984. "I wanted to do a series based upon the life of an actual 17th-century samurai named Miyamoto Musashi," Sakai says. The legendary samurai—a great swordsman, philosopher, artist and poet—also wrote the *Book of Five Rings*, a text still studied today.

*Usagi Yojimbo* has seen many publishers, including Mirage, where the furry warrior even met the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. While Sakai is known for his painstaking research and historical detail (*Usagi Yojimbo* is even used as a textbook in some college history courses!), readers wary of book learnin' need not fret. "The main goal of what I do is to entertain," Sakai says. "The secondary one is to inform about Japanese history and culture."

Whew!

### WHERE?

*Usagi Yojimbo* is printed "about nine times a year" by Dark Horse Comics. Additionally, over 10 trade paperbacks collecting the series are never too far out of print. This year, the first TPB goes into its sixth printing, while in August the most-recent "Grasscutter" storyarc sees print.

"Each trade paperback is complete in itself," Sakai promises, although he recommends the second collected volume for new readers above all others. Newbies can also check out www.usagiyojimbo.com for more Usagi data than you'd think humanly possible.

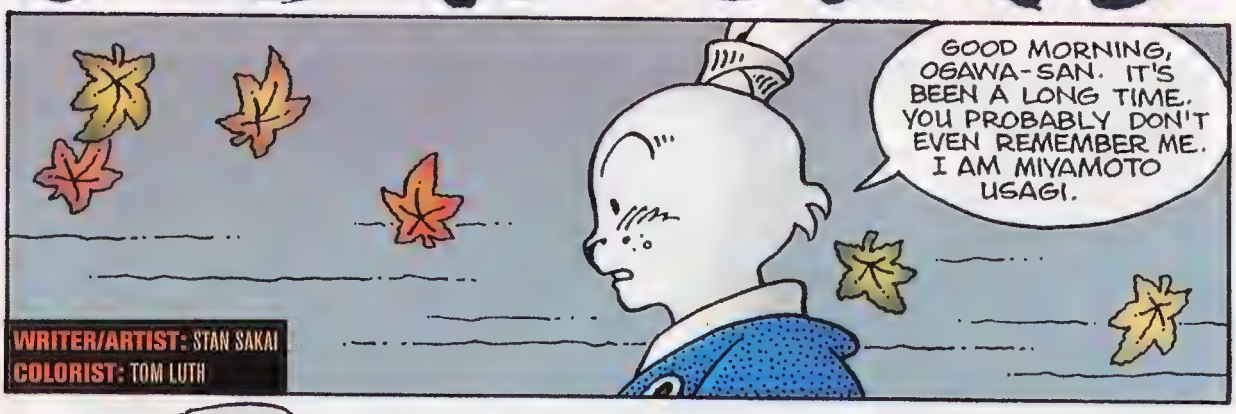
### WHAT'S NEXT?

The series is currently sticking to one- or two-issue stories after last year's multi-issue "Grasscutter" arc. But it won't last. "It's slowly building up to another long epic," Sakai says, and that epic will be a "Grasscutter" sequel of sorts, as Usagi attempts to guide the legendary sword of the title, given by the gods to the emperor of Japan, to its final resting place.

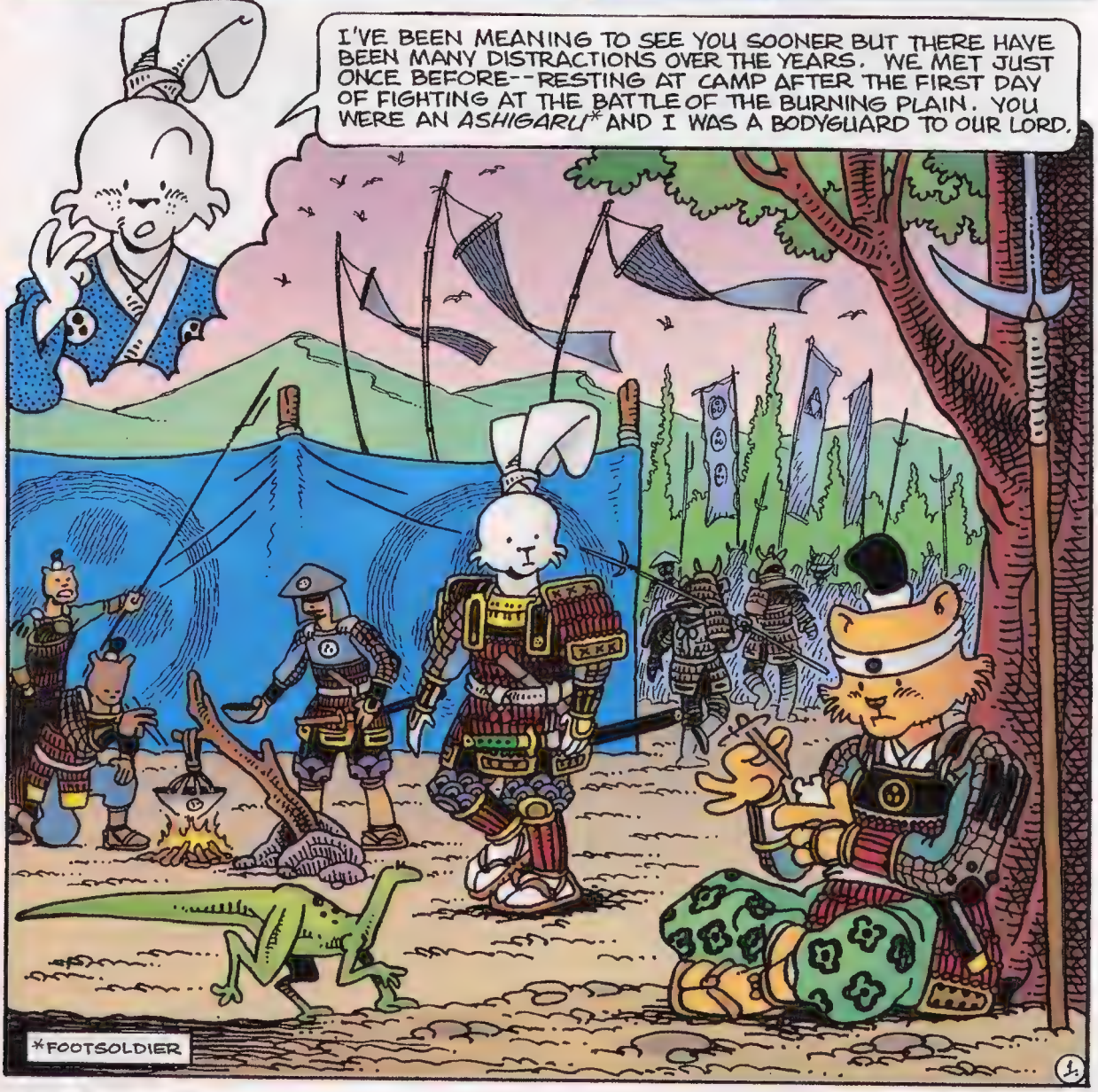
REPORTING BY TOM ROOT

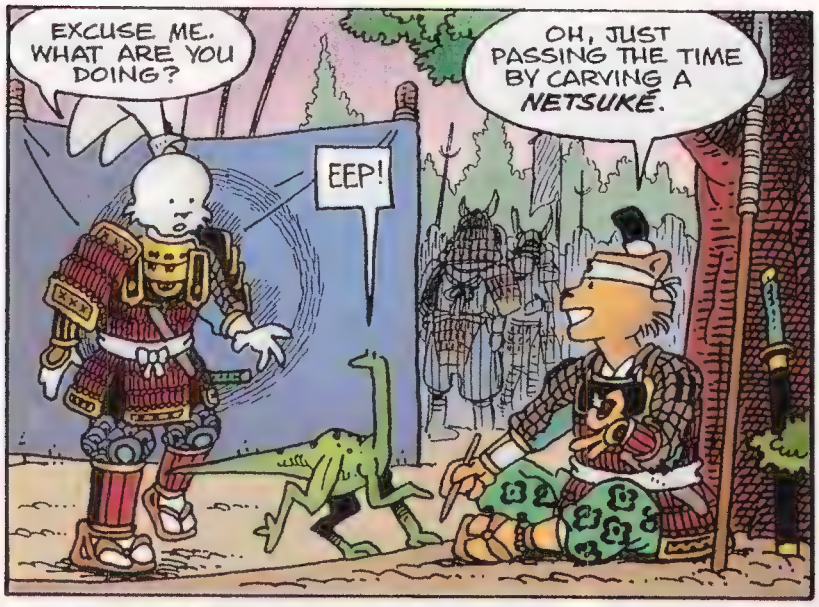
CHECK OUT THIS COOL STRIP!

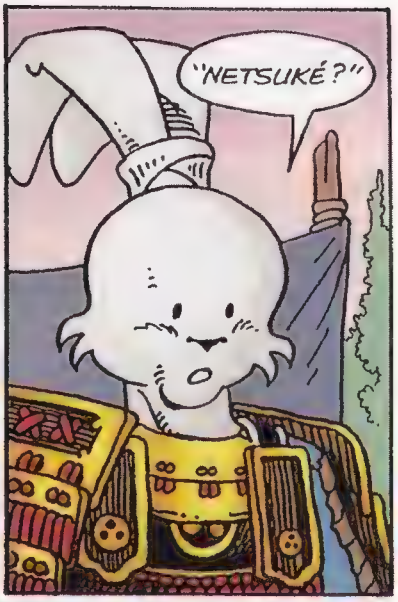
# NETSUKE



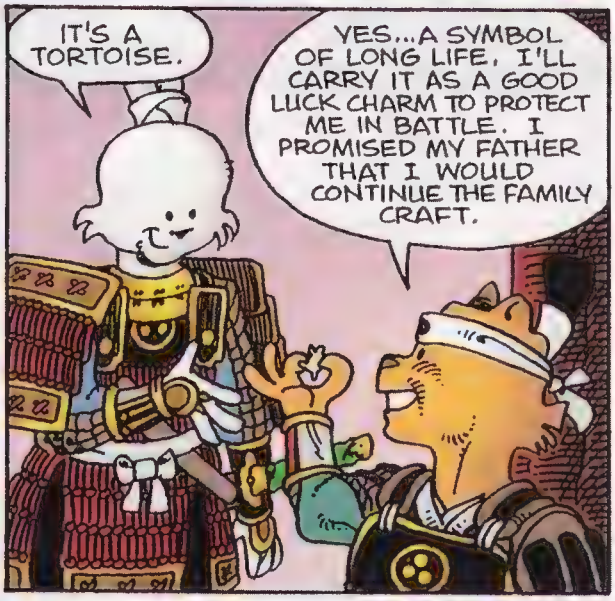

WRITER/ARTIST: STAN SAKAI
COLORIST: TOM LUTH

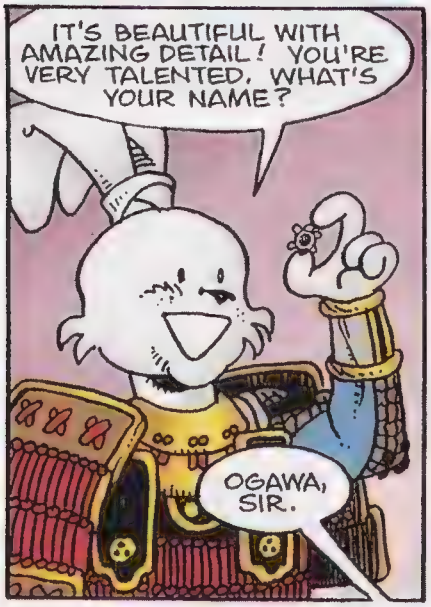


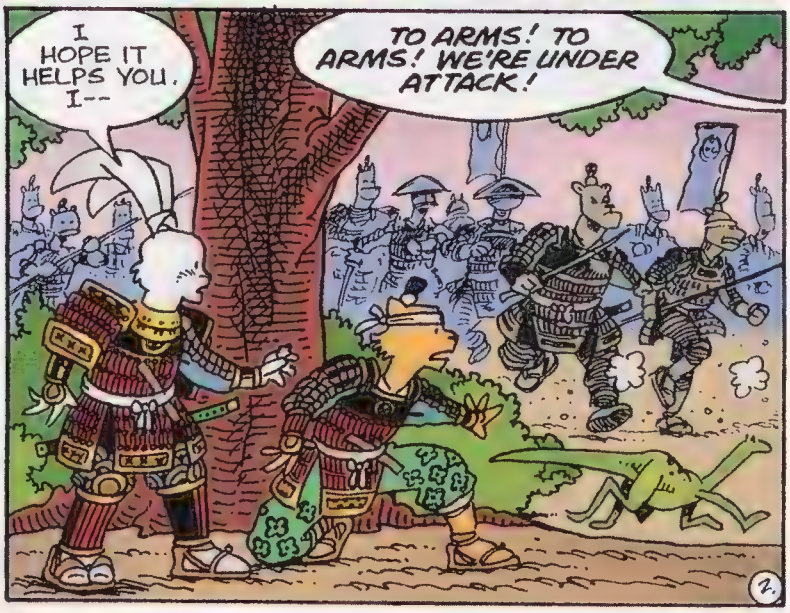

EXCUSE ME. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
EEP!
OH, JUST PASSING THE TIME BY CARVING A NETSUKÉ.


"NETSUKÉ?"

IT'S A LITTLE ORNAMENT CARVED FROM WOOD OR BONE. I LEARNED THE ART FROM MY FATHER WHO MADE THEM AS TOGGLES FOR BAGS.
AH, FINISHED!
CAN I SEE IT?


IT'S A TORTOISE.
YES...A SYMBOL OF LONG LIFE. I'LL CARRY IT AS A GOOD LUCK CHARM TO PROTECT ME IN BATTLE. I PROMISED MY FATHER THAT I WOULD CONTINUE THE FAMILY CRAFT.


IT'S BEAUTIFUL WITH AMAZING DETAIL! YOU'RE VERY TALENTED. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
OGAWA, SIR.


I HOPE IT HELPS YOU. I--
TO ARMS! TO ARMS! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

THE ENEMY SWEPT OVER US LIKE A FLOOD AND WE WERE BARELY ABLE TO DRIVE THEM BACK.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO THE REASON OF MY VISIT.

IN THE CONFUSION, I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO RETURN THIS TO YOU.

PLEASE FORGIVE THE DELAY.

END.

Being Keep-Squeezin'-Them-Monkeys Lad is thirsty work. After a hard day of putting the kibosh on the likes of Gary the Unsqueezable Monkey and Ricochet Penguin, I need the boost of calcium, protein and razor-sharp bone shards that only a monkey shake can provide. Need a quick boost? Liquefy a monkey. Trust me, it's either them...or us.
got monkey?

# GENERATIO NEXT

**When a one-legged Peter Parker fights crime as a police scientist whose only superpower is a handicapped parking sticker, one of two things must have happened. Either Marvel has launched the most-boring title in the history of comicdom, or we've entered an alternate reality. Fortunately, it's the latter—Marvel's MC2 Universe, set 15 years in the future, stars the next generation of superheroes.**

**We've seen new heroes like Spider-Girl (Spider-Man's daughter, May), Wild Thing (Wolverine's daughter) and the future Avengers who pick up after the familiar team disbands.**

**But what happened to the old-timers? The answers may surprise you.**

**NOW:** When not at home with wife Mary Jane, Peter Parker patrols Manhattan's skyline as Marvel's friendly neighborhood Spider-Man. His enhanced strength, speed, danger-alerting "spider-sense" and web shooters make him the king of swing and the world-famous Web-head.

**MC2:** When the Green Goblin blew off Pete's leg, he retired from the hero scene and became a police scientist. He and MJ had daughter May ("Mayday"), who genetically inherited his spider-powers and has taken up the hero mantle as Spider-Girl. Now Pete aims to keep the stubborn May from following in his, uh, footstep.

**THE DOPE:** "Peter's a doting father," says Marvel MC2 writer/editor Tom DeFalco. "Mary Jane is the silent, pivotal player. She's been through this before with Peter, and she knows that he and [May] can't run away from [their powers]." Speaking of which…"In *Spider-Girl* #12, she accidentally discovers she can do something that her father could never do. She also has the power to do something that her dad did, but never knew he did."

**▼SPIDER-MAN** *to* **◀SPIDER-GIRL**

# Set 15 years in the future, the MC2 Universe spotlights the next generation of Marvel stars. But what's their connection to today's heroes?

By Jim Thompson

## WOLVERINE ▼ to WILD THING ▶

**NOW:** Wolverine's the fight-first, ask-questions-later member of the X-Men, whose mutant abilities include enhanced senses, a quick-healing power and a trio of claws on both of his hands.

**MC2:** Logan had a daughter named Rina with the Greek assassin Elektra. Unlike her father's razor-sharp claws, Rina slices more subtly with psychic claws. "We can tell that Wild Thing has a lot of the same sensory enhancements that her father has," says DeFalco. "But Wild Thing's a little more skilled because her mother is a martial artist."

**THE DOPE:** Unlike the Parker family, Logan and Elektra embrace their mutant daughter's abilities. "From the start, her parents knew she was going to grow up to be a superhero and take her dad's place in the [now-retired] X-Men," says DeFalco. "But Wild Thing wants to stalk the world on her own; she's not into the team thing."

## ▼CAPTAIN AMERICA to ◀AMERICAN DREAM

**NOW:** The ultimate fighting machine, Captain America fights for the American dream as the leader of the Avengers. He hangs around with former lover and current S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Sharon Carter.

**MC2:** Cap lives on in another dimension, fighting to overthrow a dictatorship. But in his absence, he's inspired Shannon Carter—who may be Sharon's daughter—to become American Dream. A gifted fighter, she serves as a member of the new Avengers.

**THE DOPE:** "The relation [between Cap and American Dream] is not clear; there's a whole back-story to Shannon that we haven't gotten to," says DeFalco. "We'll learn that Sharon's diaries came into Shannon's possession. Sharon was dating Captain America at the time. Therefore, Shannon's [superhero identity] is more from an admiration of Captain America. I can tell you one thing, they're not related."

## MR. FANTASTIC to BIG BRAIN

**NOW:** Reed Richards employs his ultraflexible, shape-altering powers and super-genius as the leader of the Fantastic Four. He's also hitched to the Invisible Woman (Sue Richards) and is father to Franklin Richards, a child with signs of enormous psychic abilities.

**MC2:** Still the team's brain, Reed Richards is literally that: a brain preserved in a robotic shell. He gives direction to the new Fantastic Five as Big Brain, the team's mentor and strategist. As for Sue? "People assume she's dead," DeFalco hints. "But on the last page of [August's *Fantastic Five* #1], everything's up for grabs."

**THE DOPE:** "In the comic, we're vague, but what the public knows is that there was a terrible accident that involved Reed and Sue," says DeFalco. "For a month afterward, the Fantastic Four was in seclusion. And the next time we saw them, Reed was inside a robot."

The robot's designed after H.E.R.B.I.E., a robot from the 1980s FF cartoon. "The H.E.R.B.I.E. thing was a good gag," says DeFalco, but he claims that readers who dig it "may not be real enthusiastic [about his future]."

## THE THING to THE THING

**NOW:** The Thing (Ben Grimm) is the super-strong, rock-headed, ever-lovin' soul of the Fantastic Four whose favorite pastime is clobberin' time.

**MC2:** In his cameo in *Spider-Girl* #3, the Thing appears relatively unchanged, offering his trademark blue-collar humor and Mount Rushmore frame. The only difference: He now displays a mechanically altered left arm which extends down through part of his left leg.

**THE DOPE:** "In the course of the years gone by, he's had some accidents and now has some reinforcements on him," says DeFalco. "The things the FF do are not without risk. The Thing has heroically thrown himself into the fray...and sometimes it didn't work out for him." DeFalco says that if enough people are interested, he may reveal the back-story behind the Thing's lost arm.

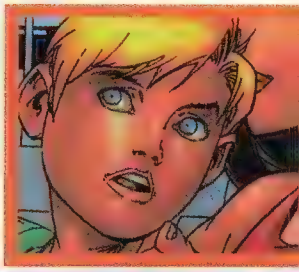
## JUGGERNAUT to J2

**NOW:** The unstoppable Juggernaut (a.k.a. Cain Marko) makes life difficult for his stepbrother Professor X and his team of X-Men. With superior strength and an impenetrable force field, he's one of the most powerful villains in the entire Marvel Universe.

**MC2:** Juggy changed his evil ways, married prominent district attorney Sachi Yama and had a son, Zane Yama, who grew up with similar powers. A scrawny teen who transforms into a super-strong behemoth, Zane fights with the Avengers as J2. We are led to believe Zane had a brief, but close, relationship with his dad, who has been MIA for quite some time—in fact, his father's favorite Sunday shirt lives on as part of J2's costume.

**THE DOPE:** "We have an upcoming appearance where Zane meets Cain. Zane helps rescue Cain with the help of Doc Magus," says DeFalco. "It appears Juggernaut was in a pocket dimension, held prisoner by Nemesis."

## FRANKLIN RICHARDS to PSILORD



**NOW:** Franklin Richards is the toddler-aged son of Reed and Sue Richards. Even at this tender age, Franklin has exhibited psychic abilities that foretell of great power.

**MC2:** As a member of the Fantastic Five, Franklin goes by the title "Psilord" and backs it up with his powerful psi-blast. He's the reason the FF now number five. He's also been known to make the heart of Spider-Girl go pitter-patter.

**THE DOPE:** "Approximately 15 years have passed, and he grew into the job," says DeFalco. "When you're born into the first family of superheroes, you join the family business."

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# MC2 MUCH

## The MC2 characters that didn't make the cut

**D+ MAN**

After some home schooling, D-Man's a bit smarter, so he updates his costume to become a just-below-average hero!

**IRON BEARD**

After Colossus hooks up with Medusa from the Inhumans, they spawn a mutant with an iron beard that can be manipulated into a variety of shapes. He's a hit at parties.

**IRON LEGION**

All of Tony Stark's illegitimate children from his drunken benders return to say it's bad to go on drunken benders!

**LIEUTENANT AMERICA**

After violating the ol' "Don't ask, don't tell" policy, Steve Rogers gets demoted to Lieutenant America!

**SGT. FURY AND HIS COMPLAINING, INCONTINENT COMMANDOS**

Now over 90 years old, the WWII heroes spend all their time complaining about "those damn lies" the government spewed while relieving their bowels into Depends.

**EVEN-GIANTER-MAN**

The son of Hank Pym can get even MORE bigger!

**TH'MORES**

The avenging son of Odin sandwiched between two graham crackers and melted marshmallow. De-LICIOUS!!

**JAW JAW SPHINX**

The nigh-omnipotent Sphinx "does it" with the Inhumans' pet Lockjaw to produce Jaw Jaw, later beaten and killed by irate Star Wars fans.

**BETA RAY GUS**

Wasted on Milk Duds and mead, Odin hooks up Brooklyn-born bus driver Gus Franchetti with Beta Ray Bill's uru mallet! "Yo, exact change only, yon mook!!"

■ THE *WIZARD* STAFF

**NOW:** For years, Daredevil has shown that the power of sight is overrated, especially when you have enhanced sensory perception, radar, athletic abilities and a complete and utter lack of fear.

**MC2:** We haven't seen Daredevil in the MC2 future, but Darkdevil's name implies a connection, although they have more differences than similarities. "Darkdevil is athletic, but he has certain mystical powers and can teleport himself. He has a flaming billy club, can cast flame and flame illusions," says DeFalco. "He's much more Ghost Rider-ish than Daredevil-like, although people believe there is a connection."

**THE DOPE:** "[Darkdevil's] becoming a major focus in the coming issues of *Spider-Girl*. He has a connection with Kaine, from the Spider-Man continuity, who was at one point a clone of Peter Parker."

## DAREDEVIL to DARKDEVIL

## DR. STRANGE to DOC MAGUS

**NOW:** Dr. Stephen Strange protects our dimension as its Sorcerer Supreme. Any magic-related threat to the cosmos calls him into action.

**MC2:** Strange somehow got canned as Sorcerer Supreme and replaced with the younger, more aloof Doc Magus. Needless to say, the two don't get along. "Doc Magus is a sorcerer mystic in training, although he wouldn't say 'in training,'" says DeFalco. "On a strict power level, they seem to be fairly evenly matched, but sometimes the old dogs know many more tricks than the new dogs."

**THE DOPE:** Is Magus Strange's former pupil? "There's obviously a history between these two by the way they bicker," says DeFalco. "There's some connection, and there's a whole stack of clues in the comics. These guys will filter through all the different titles, but if one shows up, there will be at least a mention of the other. They work better together."

*Texas-based writer Jim Thompson's MC2 offspring is a big cowboy hat with hairy toes.*

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# WRESTLEMANIA

Heads up, Green Lantern, there's a new ring in town. Thing is, this one's way too big for your finger.

Today's biggest professional wrestling stars from the WWF and WCW are bringing comics ringside. Or more specifically, they're bringing the ring to comics. Everyone from the blue-collar Stone Cold Steve Austin to the towering NWO-forming Kevin Nash is mounting a four-color assault on the industry. Yep, comics are in for a world of hurting, and you can pin it all on these current men in tights. But just exactly who's doing the hurting? Grab yer cup, lace your shoes and read on. 'Cause here comes the bell...

## STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN

**AFFILIATION:** WWF
**HEIGHT:** 6' 2"
**WEIGHT:** 252 lbs.
**THE WRESTLER:** The most popular WWF heavyweight champion ever, Stone Cold Steve Austin kicks ass for breakfast, lunch and dinner. This working man's hero has beaten every other superstar in the WWF and made his boss Vince McMahon's life a living hell. How? Oh, just by pouring cement into McMahon's new car, hosing the boss down with beer, and even making McMahon pee himself in the middle of the ring on national television.
**THE COMIC:** Look for Stone Cold to star in a modern-day western comic series by Steven Grant and an undetermined artist from Chaos! beginning this October. "There ain't no doubt about it," he says. "Stone Cold Steve Austin is the world's toughest sonofabitch! There ain't nuttin' I like better than drinkin' some Steveweisers and kickin' ass and now I'll be doing a lot more of both! If you wanna read some sissy magazine and be nuttin' but a jackass, son, then this ain't for you!"

**BALD BUSTER** If you think Stone Cold's gonna kick some ass and guzzle some brewskies in his comic, gimme a "Hell, yeah!"

STONE COLD BY TOM BUCHANAN, MANKIND & UNDERTAKER BY RICH FREDDA, KANE PHOTO BY DAVID MCCAIN © TITAN SPORTS, INC.

# PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING CRASHES COMICS AND PUTS THE INDUSTRY IN A CHOKE HOLD

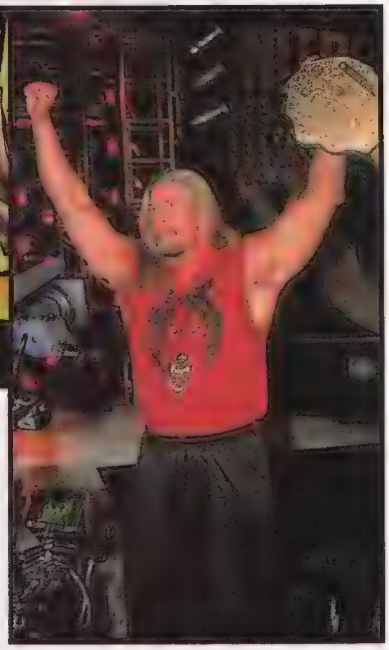
BY ANDRÉ D. SHELL

**DEAD HEAD** Cross the Undertaker an' you'll get a very, *very* messy bathroom.

## UNDERTAKER

**AFFILIATION:** WWF
**HEIGHT:** 6′ 10″
**WEIGHT:** 328 lbs.
**THE WRESTLER:** The Undertaker, a recent WWF heavyweight champion, is possibly the most feared individual in all of professional wrestling. Whether it's leaving opponents hanging from a noose, crucifying them in the center of the ring, or even kidnapping (owner of the WWF) Vince McMahon's daughter, Undertaker takes great pride in terrorizing anyone who steps in his path.
**THE COMIC:** "I don't believe there's anybody out there whose ass I couldn't kick," says the Undertaker. With an attitude like that and a serious respect for evil, it's no wonder Chaos! Comics jumped at the chance to publish an *Undertaker* series by Beau Smith and Manny Clark. It's the story of a struggle between Undertaker, Paul Bearer (Undertaker's current manager in real life), and the mysterious Embalmer. Each of these powerful individuals owns one volume of the *Book of the Dead*, and they all seek to combine the books' powers to gain control of the eternal prison of dark souls, Stygian.

**MONSTER NASH** He may be called Big Sexy, but man, he's got hairy pits.



## KEVIN NASH

**AFFILIATION:** WCW
**HEIGHT:** 6′ 10″
**WEIGHT:** 325 lbs.
**THE WRESTLER:** Known for his charisma, Kevin Nash is a born leader and that's exactly what he became when he entered World Championship Wrestling in 1996. He helped formed the first incarnation of the New World Order, formed the NWO splinter group the Wolfpac and recently went solo, nabbing the WCW heavyweight championship belt.
**THE COMIC:** "When I was growing up, comic books were about as influential as anything," says Nash. "I loved Marvel books, especially Captain America, Iron Man and Spider-Man." And now, he's creating and starring in his very own comic. "I'm excited, because it's something I've always wanted to do, and it's a really cool story." The scoop? In the year 2023, food's replaced money and is controlled by an elite few. Nash, a futuristic Robin Hood, takes it to the face of Cyruss Storm (the executive bad guy controlling the food supply). With art by Marat Mychaels and a story by Kevin Nash himself, *Nash* debuts this August from Image.

## STING

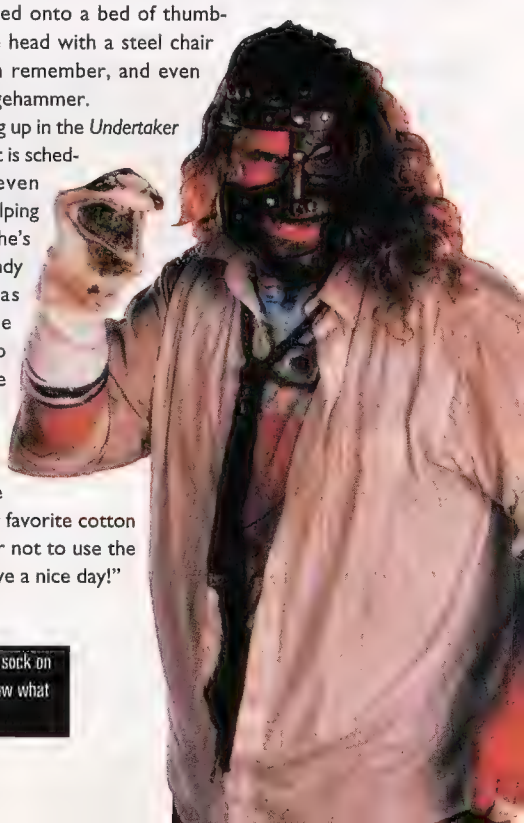
**AFFILIATION:** WCW
**HEIGHT:** 6′ 2″
**WEIGHT:** 252 lbs.
**THE WRESTLER:** The five-time heavyweight champ has always been there when it counts, and always fights for justice, not gold nor glory. Swooping down from the rafters with his trademark baseball bat, Sting's the vigilante of the WCW, often stepping up to accept the challenges of wrestlers whose inflated egos have twisted their minds.
**THE COMIC:** Nothing's been signed yet, but word on the street is that WCW is talking with major comic publishers about creating comics based on their top wrestlers. You can bet that when the smoke clears, Sting will be the star of his own title. "The face kicks it in, like Batman," he says. "If people want to look at me as a superhero, then that's great. The big thing is, somehow or another, people relate to me. I can connect with them and they can connect with me."

**WHITE OUT** Sting fights for truth, justice and big, white teeth.

STING PHOTO BY PAUL SCHRADER

## MANKIND

**AFFILIATION:** WWF
**HEIGHT:** 6′ 2″
**WEIGHT:** 287 lbs.
**THE WRESTLER:** With a sock puppet for a best friend (Mr. Socko), the deranged Mankind may just be the WWF's most bizarre wrestler ever. Not blessed with tremendous size or dazzling speed, Mankind makes up for his disadvantages with an incredible tolerance for pain and a heart the size of Australia. He's been choke-slammed onto a bed of thumbtacks, smashed over the head with a steel chair more times than he can remember, and even been beaten with a sledgehammer.
**THE COMIC:** Besides popping up in the *Undertaker* series, a *Mankind* one-shot is scheduled for August by Steven Grant and Jerry Beck, helping readers understand why he's nuttier than a Snickers candy bar. "Before Socko was housebroken," says the freak of nature, "I used to have napkins all over the place. We were supposed to use newspaper, but we felt guilty about ruining literature. So when you're trying to potty-train your favorite cotton undergarment, remember not to use the *Mankind* comic book. Have a nice day!"



**FREAK OUT** If Mankind wears a sock on his hand, do you *really* wanna know what he does with his underwear?

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# SLAMMIN'

**So wrestling has finally gotten a stranglehold on the comics industry, huh? Undertaker. Stone Cold. Kevin Nash. Who's next? Well, what follows is a list of the 10 pro wrestlers we think most deserve a comic series of their own:**

**10. GILLBERG (WWF)** This scrawny Goldberg parody who can't win a match to save his life would get destroyed every issue by the most pathetic supervillains this side of Superman's rogues gallery.

**9. LA PARKA (WCW)** He wears a full-body purple skeleton costume, flies off the top rope with crazy aerial moves and beats people with folding chairs. How this guy isn't already in the Avengers is beyond us.

**8. NEW JACK (ECW)** The ultimate role model! New Jack's the kind of forty-drinkin', car-jackin', gun-totin' ghetto thug that leaves everybody shook when he dives off forty-foot balconies and crashes Wile E. Coyote-style through two stacked tables.

**7. THE BIG SHOW (WWF)** At 7′ 4″, 500 lbs. and a habit of choke-slamming his opponents through the ring, the Big Show lacks only one thing to make him a comic book success: a sidekick. Give him a midget sidekick named Little Show and you've got your new #1 seller!

**6. HAK (WCW)** He drinks beer, smokes and beats people with Singapore canes. Can you say the perfect *Strangers in Paradise* crossover?

**5. JUSTIN CREDIBLE (ECW)** We just like the name.

**4. THE GODFATHER (WWF)** The "pimp-themed" wrestler. What else do we need to explain?

**3. BUFF BAGWELL (WCW)** He makes movies where he gets to sheet-wrestle Julie Strain. He's just on the list in the hopes he reads this and hooks us up with Julie.

**2. CHYNA (WWF)** She is the Queen of the Nutshot, has the physique of Wonder Woman and the lung capacity of Lady Death. Hell, she already IS a comic book character.

**1. THE ROCK (WWF)** "It doesn't matter if you're watching The Rock on television or reading about The Rock in *The People's Comic Book*," says WWF star The Rock. "The Rock is the most electrifying man in sports entertainment. And it's only a matter of time before The Rock shows every other jabroni gracing the pages of a comic book exactly why, compared to the Great One, they are nothing but a bunch of Roody-Poo Candy Asses." Yeah, what he said!

**KNOW YOUR POLE** If The Rock gets lost, all he has to do is look at the signs.

THE ROCK ILLUSTRATION BY DARRYL BANKS, WHO KNOWS HIS ROLE, YA ROODY-POO.

**GETTING KANED** He's mean, he's mute and he can mush Mr. Ass. Not a bad job.

## KANE

**AFFILIATION:** WWF
**HEIGHT:** 7′ 0″
**WEIGHT:** 326 lbs.
**THE WRESTLER:** Ever since Kane first entered the ring, he's set the WWF on fire...literally. He's used a flamethrower more than once, and even wrestled in "inferno" matches—where the ring's surrounded by a wall of flames and the goal is to burn your opponent. Rumor has it, his fascination with fire stems from a childhood accident that mutilated his face and robbed him of the ability to speak. Originally used as a weapon against Undertaker by Paul Bearer, it's since been revealed that the two brutal wrestlers are brothers.

**THE COMIC:** Since he's Undertaker's brother, it's only natural that Kane plays a key role in the *Undertaker* series. It's unknown at this point what Kane's true agenda is, but it's been hinted that he's trying to make sure the Undertaker wins his battle for all three volumes of the *Book of the Dead* so he can defeat his brother for control of Stygian. Chaos! also has plans for a solo Kane project sometime down the road.

*Wizard Research Assistant André D. Shell can smell what The Rock is cookin'. Unfortunately, it don't smell too good.*

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# welcoming MAT

## Theme restaurants get bodyslammed as pro wrestling opens its arms to the world with the grand opening of the WCW Nitro Grill

"It's just so big," remarks Chae, one of the peppy Nitro Girls. "I didn't really know what to expect, but I just walked around, and I love it. It's great!"

Before your mind descends to gutter level, the playful Nitro Girl refers to the 16,000-plus square-foot Nitro Grill, Las Vegas' newest theme restaurant attraction, where hundreds of others gather on the restaurant level of the medieval-themed Excalibur Hotel and Casino. Tagged "Where the Big Boys Eat," the Grill promises to be the first of an eight-to-10 restaurant chain within the next three years, as plans are in motion for new locations in tourist-heavy cities like Detroit, Orlando, New York City and Atlanta, home of WCW's world headquarters.

But where other theme restaurants, such as the beleaguered Planet Hollywood and Fahion Cafe, have failed to maintain a steady clientele, the Nitro Grill's been designed to focus not only on the wrestling angle, but to serve up tasty, affordable food—luckily, it succeeds on all levels. Wrestling fans will pause at the Grill's wall-to-wall memorabilia donated by WCW superstars including Diamond Dallas Page, Sting, Goldberg, Ric Flair, Chris Jericho and the aforementioned Chae. Even better, there are plans for wrestlers to appear at the Grill for autograph sessions every two to three weeks. So pack your bags, 'rasslin fans, and get ready for throat-grabbing, choke-slamming fun!

**ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA** Overhead sits a lighting rig that houses over 50 roving, rotating lights of all colors. The lighting takes its cues from the WCW broadcasts that are shown continuously on HDTV screens all over the restaurant.

**EYE IN THE SKY** Plans are in place to install real-time Web cams in the Grill, so that Internet users surfing by the official Website (www.nitrogrill.com) can catch a glimpse of what's going on, from wrestler signings to pay-per-view parties. The site also offers up-to-date schedules for wrestler signings.

**RINGSIDE** Within the central area of the Nitro Grill lies a regulation-size wrestling ring cordoned off with real turnbuckles and ropes. Inside are nine tables that can be removed to reveal a dance floor.

ALL PHOTOS BY GREGORY CAVA

**CABLE-READY** The Nitro Grill is sectioned off into eight zones, each of which adopts a theme from one of WCW's top-rated pay-per-view events. The Bash at the Beach area features *fake* beach tents surrounded by HDTV screens that promise to broadcast live wrestling and other sporting events. The Halloween Havoc zone, with its steel cage and wall of photos, lies near the entrance, while the Starrcade section, which features a lit entryway, lies in the rear for VIPs and private parties.

**PAY THE PIPER** Current WCW President "Rowdy" Roddy Piper greets happy fans after being interviewed for an E! network broadcast. But when the named reporter learned she had inadvertently left a clip-on microphone on Piper's T-shirt, she had to chase him down minutes later to retrieve it.

**LIFE RODDY** ... was a valuable commodity in Piper's post-apocalyptic film "Hell Comes to Frogtown," cause he was a rare fertile male. Some of Piper's other screen gems include "They Live," "Immortal Combat" and "Body Slam."

**JANITOR'S NIGHTMARE** The WCW Nitro Grill boasts 16,000-plus square feet of raucous restaurant excitement, including a 6,880 square-foot Spring Stampede-themed patio that features retired set pieces from "WCW Monday Nitro."

by dan digiacomo

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** The Road Wild bar offers up a host of spicy appetizers, from the Choke Slam Cheese Fries to the Clothesline Quesadillas. Thirsty? Wash it down with one of the Grill's cool, exclusive beverages, like the Top Rope Margarita or the Stinger Splash.

**MEAT MAN** 7-foot-2 Kevin Nash has his own menu item called the "Big Sexy T-Bone" steak. "It's the best meat in the house," he says with a wide grin.

**RENAISSANCE MAN** Nash, who starred in "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 2: Secret of the Ooze" as Super Shredder and made guest appearances on TV's "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" and "The Love Boat," also played college basketball at the University of Tennessee and professionally in Germany for four years until a knee injury ended his hoop dreams.

**HAMMER TIME** After more than a year of planning, the Nitro Grill groundbreaking ceremony took place in January 1999, as WCW big man Kevin Nash, Hulk Hogan, Diamond Dallas Page and "Macho Man" Randy Savage each donned hard hats and swung sledgehammers to get things started. The actual props now hang in the Grill, complete with pulverized plaster.

**LADIES' MAN** They don't call him "Big Sexy" for nothin'. Surrounded by women the whole night (here, he's flanked by Nitro Girls Chae, left, and Storm), Nash made female guests and staff members swoon with his dead-on Elvis impersonation.

**DANCING QUEEN** Gary, Ind. native Storm—who's toured as a dancer with James Brown, Keith Sweat and Blackstreet—was so named because of her propensity to kick while still in her mother's womb.

**BACKBEAT** Keep your eyes peeled for a WCW album from Tommy Boy Records hitting stores this fall with such hits as Kounan's over-the-top rap song, Goldberg's trademark theme music and jams by WCW's official record slinger, DJ Ran.

**MATERIAL GIRL** Chae donated some of her official Nitro Girl outfits to the Grill, as many of the wrestlers did. Among the noteworthy items: "Nature Boy" Ric Flair's gold robe, Goldberg's trademark black trunks and one of Raven's signature Sandman T-shirts. Plans call for a rotating lineup of memorabilia to grace the Grill's walls.

**ALL ABOUT SEOUL** Nitro Girl Chae came to the United States as a young girl in 1983 from Seoul, South Korea, and studied business at Armstrong State University before scoring a gig as an Atlanta Falcons cheerleader.

**ROCK OF AGES** DJ Ran kept the dance floor pumping and played an eclectic mix of tunes, ranging from David Bowie's "Fame" to Phil Collins' "Tonight Tonight" to Offspring's "Pretty Fly for a White Guy."

**SLAMMIN' BODY** Playboy's 1998 Playmate of the Year Karen McDougal pauses momentarily from turning heads on the dance floor to check DJ Ran's tune selection.

**HUNGRY?** Not that you'd know it by looking at her, but Chae's the junk-food junkie of the Nitro Girls. She made her way to the Grill's kitchen with hopes of constructing a mammoth dessert, but her visit halted productivity and a panicked manager hustled her outside.

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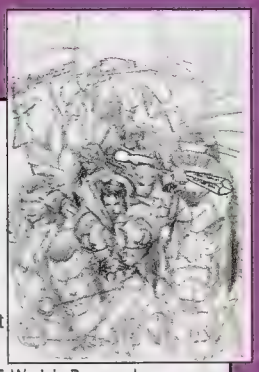
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**GRAND KANYON** Kanyon, born Chris Canyon, served as the technical wrestling adviser on NBC's TV movie "The Jesse Ventura Story," which chronicled the life of Minnesota's new governor. Kanyon also scored a cameo in the film.

**DOUBLE DOWN** Kanyon's a card shark, beating out Jenny McCarthy and TV Superman Dean Cain in a charity blackjack tournament that took place later in the evening.

**MMMM, GOOD!** Real-life nice guy Kanyon settles in with a tasty grilled chicken, the #2 favorite dish on the menu. The #1 item? The Salmon Superior Steak, the fave choice of everyone from Nitro Girls Chae and Storm to No Limit soldier Chase Tatum.

**ACT UP** The enthusiastic staff went through a rigorous process to earn their positions, having to go through not only an interview, but also an audition in which they were broken into groups and made to perform a skit or song for the managers.

**MOVE TO THE MUSIC** Once the ring tables were cleared in the dining area, Chae jumped into action, cut some rug and pulled some lethargic partygoers to join her as local newsmen covered the event.

**GRILL GEAR** Want a Nitro rug? How about an official Zippo lighter? Or maybe some Nitro golf balls? All that and more are available at the Grill store, which offers a full line of Nitro-related T-shirts, hats, key chains and gifts at a relatively reasonable price.

**GIRL POWER** When not dancing for screaming fans, Chae keeps busy riding her Harley, playing piano or caring for her two horses, Patsy and Smooth.

**BIG MONEY** The Grill's most expensive item? A $325 leather bomber jacket emblazoned with the Nitro Grill logo. The least expensive item is a Nitro Grill pin, priced at just $4.

**LOUIE DICE?** Konnan, who was singled out for an interview by a Spanish-speaking TV station at the opening, is real-life best buds with tag partner and fellow No Limit soldier Rey Mysterio Jr.

**MEET 'N' GREET** Konnan, who attracted a line of hundreds that extended outside the restaurant, joined Kanyon, Curt Hennig and Roddy Piper in signing autographs at the opening.

**MAN IN THE MOON** Born Carlos Ashenoff, Konnan wrestled just once as Max Moon in the WWF. He immediately left the promotion for WCW after seeing the footage.

*If* ToyFare *Copy Editor Dan DiGiacomo was a WCW wrestler, he'd be called "The Masked Inserter," and his finishing move would be the "Burning Spear."*

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SAN DIEGO COMIC CON INTERNATIONAL

HARLAN
Ellis
etc.

# THE WIZARD Q&A

BY SCOTT BRICK • PHOTOS BY CRAIG MOLENHOUSE

He's been called a **noted futurist**, a **noted curmudgeon** and a **noted pain in the ass**, but he's just another comic fan at heart. Meet **HARLAN ELLISON**, the world's angriest fanboy.

Forget the rumors, listen to the *man*.

Harlan Ellison's enemies will tell you the legendary writer is hard to work with, makes unreasonable demands and would just as soon smash you as look at you. But that's Ellison, the *legend*. Sure he's been in some notorious battles, times when he's probably wanted to maim those who've altered his creative vision. Still, Ellison the man, when you get to know him, is a different story. "The things I care about in life are ethical behavior, conscience and responsibility," Ellison says, relaxing outside his palatial estate he calls Ellison Wonderland. "Kindness, friendship, art and courtesy: all the best things in life."

This from the man who wrote an entire book dedicated to "pissing on Gene Roddenberry's grave"? Absolutely. Just because he values goodwill and kindness doesn't mean he won't take you down if you mess with him.

In 50 years as a professional writer, the controversial Ellison's authored 74 books, 1700 stories, articles and columns, not to mention award-winning films and teleplays. He wrote the original version of the famous "Star Trek" episode "The City on the Edge of Forever"—but a completely rewritten version aired, invoking Ellison's ire. He helped relaunch "The Twilight Zone" in 1985 as its creative consultant but bolted when CBS refused to run an episode. He also served as conceptual consultant on TV's acclaimed "Babylon 5."

Yet comics are one of Ellison's true loves. He's written stories for *Batman*, *Daredevil* and *The Avengers*. His most recent comics foray, *Harlan Ellison's Dream Corridor* (which adapted several of his short stories), fulfilled his lifelong dream of having his own comic book. Although his output has slowed since a quadruple bypass in 1996, the passion still burns in the 65-year-old Ellison, evinced by the Superman project he's readying with writer and friend Peter David for DC's upcoming "Realworlds" series.

Ellison's a very welcoming host, a living contradiction to his image. Sure, it's only a few moments into the interview and already Ellison's hurled enough obscenities to make the faint of heart flee in terror, but the way Ellison swears seems more about putting his guests at ease than it is about singeing your eyebrows with curses. "I use f---ing as an adjective, it's a modifier is all it is," Ellison says, with a devilish chuckle. "I recently gave an interview to a newspaper and they left in all the 'f---ings.' Except they put in 'F dash-dash-dash G.'" He bellows in mock anger, "If you don't want to say f---ing then take the word out entirely, moron!"

Ellison's Los Angeles home is a sprawling fanboy's paradise. Original comic artwork from Golden Age comics covers his walls. Original Randy Bowen sculptures sit on display cases. Over a quarter of a million books line his shelves. Blink and you might miss the pen Jack Kirby used to create the Silver Surfer, or a diorama of the Justice Society posed similarly to the painting *The Last Supper*, with the Spectre as the Holy Ghost. "One of the few reasons for making a lot of money is so you can buy all the toys you couldn't afford when you were a kid," says Ellison with a childlike smile.

*Wizard* stopped by Ellison's home to chat about his lifelong passion for comics, to get the lowdown on his upcoming Superman story and to see if we could spark that legendary temper by abusing his hospitality.

## VITAL STATS

**NAME:** Harlan Jay Ellison
**OCCUPATION:** Award-winning writer, editor, critic, TV personality and avid comic book fan and collector
**BORN:** May 27, 1934 in Cleveland, Ohio
**BASE OF OPERATIONS:** Los Angeles, Calif.
**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:** Has won more awards than any living fantasist in his 50-year career. Created *Harlan Ellison's Dream Corridor* in 1995, served as Conceptual Consultant on "Babylon 5," wrote the original version of "The City on the Edge of Forever" for "Star Trek," and served as writer, director and Creative Consultant on the 1985 revival of "The Twilight Zone."
**THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTION ABOUT WRITERS:** "That we work for free. *I* work for money. I ain't a non-profit organization. Everybody thinks when you become an Artist, you're supposed to work for nothing. F--- you. Who's gonna put food on my table?"

**WIZARD: You're recognized mostly for your fiction writing, but you're a comic lover at heart. What got you hooked?**

**ELLISON:** 1939. I was five, in Shelby, N.C. [There were] sugarcane fields and I made friends with the workers there. I remember lying out in those fields on a hot summer day, stripped to the waist, reading the 1939 *World's Fair Comics*, the first comic that had Superman and Batman together. First comic I ever read and I loved it! I still have that comic, it's in one of my hidden archive rooms.

**Hidden archives?**

Oh, there're lots to see here. I've got hidden rooms, secret passageways, comic book rooms that are temperature and humidity regulated...none of which you'll get to see, so stop salivating.

**What was your earliest experience writing comics?**

When I was 9 years old, I'd make my own. I'd take them around the neighborhood and sell them, and if people didn't buy them I'd break their windows. [*Laughter*] See, I had learned marketing early on! I was a canny, streetwise little urchin even in them days.

The first comic I actually sold was to Bill Gaines [the publisher] at EC Comics: *Weird Science Fantasy*. "Upheaval" was the title. I wrote it on March 16, 1952. Great story. Later I rewrote it for [TV's] "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea"! [*Laughter*] It's the secret of longevity, you readapt what you've already done to a new format.

**Which comics do you read today?**

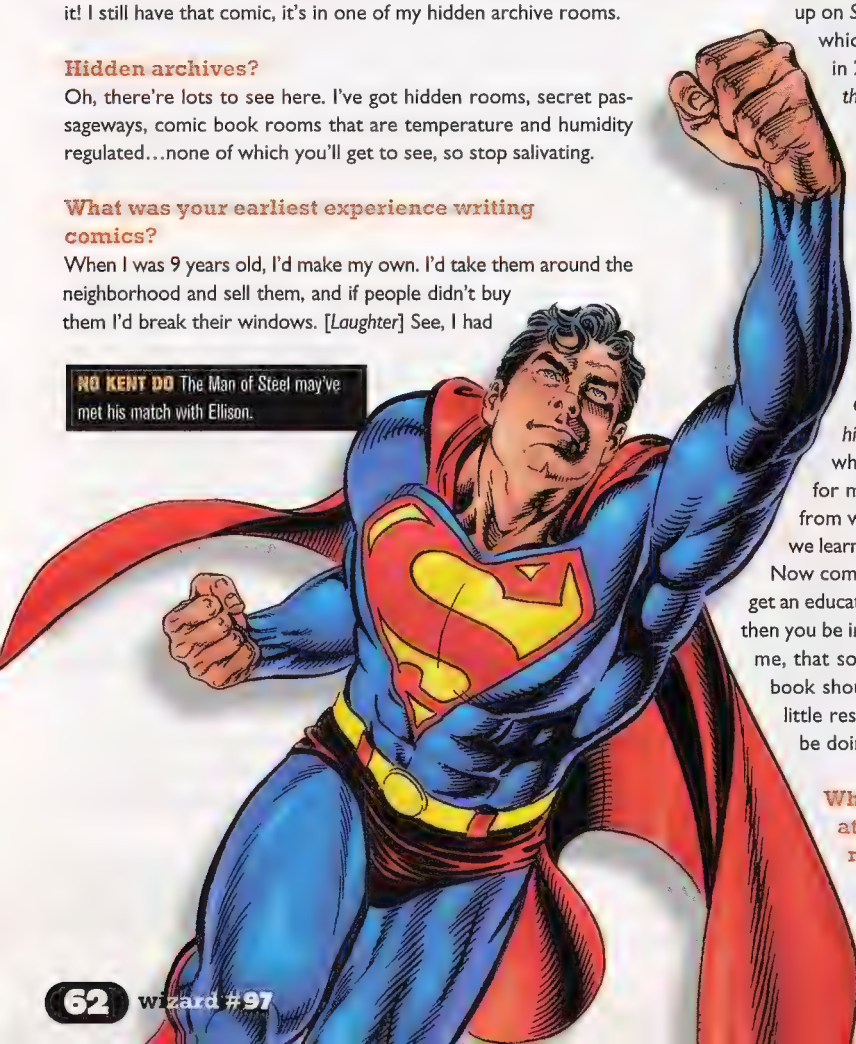
I read *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, and the other new Alan Moore books. At the moment I'm getting caught up on *Sandman Mystery Theater*. I'm reading *Fanboy*, which I love. The best straight comic I've read in 20 years is Doug Moench's *Batman: Book of the Dead*. It's unbelievable! It's so mature, so smart, so entertaining, and it's a pure Batman comic. I was reading the "No Man's Land" Batman stuff, but after a while it gets very, very weary. I read very little Marvel crap...I have a systemic aversion to dumb. I just read the Vertigo hardcover *Veils*. It is flat-out, absolutely brilliant.

**What's wrong with the comics industry today?**

Oh swell, now I'm the idiot savant. [*Hangs his head, then after a moment*] Okay, I'll take a whirl at an answer. Comics were the primer for my generation. From them we learned right from wrong, we learned courage from cowardice, we learned good from evil. They were our education. Now comics don't serve that purpose. If you want to get an education out of comics, and you be readin' *Spawn*, then you be in some serious, serious *merde*. That bothers me, that something as purely American as the comic book should be turned over to people who have as little respect for it as the steamboats who seem to be doing it today.

**What do you think about comic creators who are more interested in movie and video game deals?**

Art is wonderful, but you cannot put food on your table with Art. As [writer] S.J. Perelman said, "The muse is a tough buck." You do the



**NO KENT DO** The Man of Steel may've met his match with Ellison.

# "I have nothing to do with 'STAR TREK.' [It] means less than nothing to me."

## –HARLAN ELLISON

Art and then you market the ass off it. You give nothing away. As [DC Editor] Julie Schwartz is fond of saying, "Harlan don't take a piss until he's paid." And that's the truth, you want me, you pay me. Anybody who doesn't understand that Art is a cottage industry is a damn fool.

**Any comics out there you'd love to write?**

Yeah, there're all kinds of stuff I'd like to do, but I've got a limited amount of energy after my bypass surgery. So I'll just do the occasional piece, like this Superman thing, when I can shoehorn it in.

**Any plans for further *Dream Corridor* books?**

[*Gleefully*] Yeah. When I get the energy. I'm a little on the tired side. [*Laughter*] And doing bullsh-- interviews like this ain't helping matters…

**So, what can you tell us about your upcoming Superman story for "Realworlds"?**

It's called *Superman: Exorcising Demons*. I hate it when someone like Erik Larsen says, "I'm going to do with Aquaman what has never been done in the history of literature before!" and it turns out to be two guys fighting. I don't want to be one of those pinheads who makes that kind of pontificating statement. But as best I can tell from having read comics for 60 years, there has never been a story like this. It's fantastic, I just love this story! It opens at the Academy Awards and my friend Robin Williams is giving out the Oscar for Best Screenplay. It travels back to Cleveland with Jerry Siegel and Joe Schuster, it winds up in New York so Julie Schwartz appears in it, ["Babylon 5" creator] Joe Straczynski is in it, they all make passing cameos. It's a wonderful, real story.

**Who's working on it with you?**

I'm writing it the way I would write a movie treatment, then it'll go to Peter David. A lot of the dialogue I'll have already written and contributed, then it'll come back to me to fine-tune it. Peter knows the way I speak because we're such good friends.

**How did your friendship begin?**

Basically, Peter saved my ass. A few years ago there was a group of people who wanted to cause me a lot of grief. They founded an organization called "Enemies of Ellison." They helped bring on the heart attack. Which is cool. I don't mind revenge, I think revenge is cool. Anybody f---s with me and I'll take them to their grave with my teeth in their throat, so I'm prepared to have really strong enemies. But what I didn't like is that they made my wife cry. Susan would sit on the edge of the bed and say, "Why won't they leave us alone?" Peter

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# THAT CRAZY HARLAN

*The real-life horror stories of Harlan Ellison*

### DISNEY DREAM JOB

Harlan worked as a Disney writer for half a day. After only four hours on the job, Harlan ate lunch with other writers on the lot in the Disney commissary where he proceeded to do an hilarious impression of Mickey, Minnie and Goofy making a porn film–while unseen Disney execs eavesdropped in the adjoining booth. When he went back to his office his pink slip was waiting for him. The moral of the story? "At Disney, nobody f---s with the mouse." (From "The Three Most Important Things in Life," *Stalking the Nightmare*)

### AGONY ON THE EDGE OF FOREVER

Ellison's original version of "City on the Edge of Forever" for "Star Trek" was drastically rewritten by "Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry. When Harlan's version won the coveted Writers Guild Award, Harlan pointed a finger at Roddenberry during his acceptance speech. "This is the version that should have been done, and this a--hole here f---ed it up." (From the introduction to his book, *The City on the Edge of Forever*)

### MAYANS AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME

Harlan has been called in as potential first writer on four Star Trek movies. When he pitched Paramount an idea for the first Star Trek film that would take place way back at the dawn of time, the studio exec who was in charge had read about Mayans possibly being visitors from outer space, and he asked Harlan to put some Mayans in the movie. Harlan quietly, patiently explained that there were no people of any kind at the dawn of time, told the exec he was a pinhead, and walked out. (From the introduction to his book, *The City on the Edge of Forever*)

### MISERY WITHOUT ASHES

Harlan spent six months of his life creating "The Starlost" for 20th Century Fox television syndication in 1973, only to watch it degenerate into a nightmare of executive mismanagement. Although it cost him $93,000 in participation profits, Harlan withheld his name from the project. His original version of the debut episode, "Phoenix Without Ashes," won another Writers Guild Award. The moral? "If the f---ers want to rewrite you...smash them!" (From "Somehow, I Don't Think We're in Kansas, Toto," *Stalking the Nightmare*)

### NAKED GUNFIGHT

The details are sketchy, but Harlan apparently once held off the son of a Mafia kingpin–and three of his associates-with a Remington XP-100 pistol, while he was wearing nothing but a bath towel. Scary image. (From Ellison's current press kit bio) ■ **SB**

MICKEY ART COURTESY OF EVERETT COLLECTION

David came to our aid by starting "Friends of Ellison," or F.O.E.

**Is it true you still work on a typewriter?**

Absolutely. I wouldn't own a computer if you paid me! I think you should work at the level of technology that best produces art, and anything above that is just toots and whistles guaranteed to put money in Bill Gates' pocket.

**You've said you hate being called a science fiction writer, but prefer to be called a "fantasist" instead. Why?**

*Time* magazine can never just say "Writer," they've gotta say "Gore Writer Stephen King," or "Labia Scrivener Danielle Steele" or something like that. But the more you compartmentalize, the more you exclude. It's a commercialization tag for the convenience of people writing blurbs in the captions under photographs. Like in *Wizard*. "Fantasist" is okay. I'm not nuts about it but I can live with it. I prefer just "writer." Or, Your Holiness. Splendid Fellow is also good.

**You were once called a "noted futurist" on a TV commercial. What exactly is a futurist's job description?**

As a writer, you inadvertently predict any number of things. Well, if you've got 3,000 writers predicting wildly for 50 years you're going to hit a few just by random chance. They never talk about the 19 million that didn't come to pass at all! I used the word "faxbox" 25 years before they ever had faxes. When drive-by shootings began on the LA freeways, somebody found my story "Along the Scenic Route," which had people having duels in cars going 200 miles per hour on the freeway. The Associated Press started calling, asking, "How does it feel to have predicted this?" I'd say, "It feels *very important*."

**You've had some memorably bad experiences working in TV and film, but what have been your best experiences?**

Working on "Babylon 5" was great because I watched Joe do five years of a novel for television. It was an amazing thing to watch somebody realize his dream. Maybe not 100 percent, but at least 87.6 percent. Working on "Twilight Zone" was a mad period—everybody was completely demented and deranged—but we knew we were doing important stuff. It was heavy living and we loved it.

[*As if on cue, Joe Straczynski drops by the house for dinner. Harlan beckons Straczynski to join him.*]

**ELLISON:** Hey Joe, I'm being interviewed for *Wizard*. C'mon, let's take a picture together. You're taller than I am. Get down on your knees and stand next to me.

**STRACZYNSKI:** I won't fall for that line, Harlan. I work with actors who try that one on me.

**ELLISON:** *Next* to me, I said *next* to me! Not in front of me or behind me.

**Where did you guys meet?**

**STRACZYNSKI:** In prison. In South America, wasn't it?

**ELLISON:** Yeah, I was going out, you were going in.

**What were you in for?**

**ELLISON:** Him? [Molesting] a cat in public.

**STRACZYNSKI:** It was Harlan's cat. Who knew?

**ELLISON:** [*Shaking his head*] I think the tragic comment about the both of us is that you and I are the best we could do for friends.

[*Nodding his head in agreement, Straczynski heads for the living room to wait for dinner. Ellison grabs a cue and starts shooting pool while talking about his "Star Trek" experience, one of the ugliest periods in his literary career. At times, Ellison looks as though he'd love to run the cue stick through someone's skull.*]

**After "The City on the Edge of Forever" was rewritten for "Star Trek," your original script won the Writers Guild of America Award. Is being proven right the best revenge?**

Oh man, there is no "best" revenge. The great composer Berlioz once wrote, "Time is a great teacher. Unfortunately, he kills all his pupils." The only victory is to still be standing.

**Does it bother you that you're still so associated with "Star Trek"?**
Yeah. I have nothing to do with "Star Trek." I never actually watched the version that they aired because it hurt so much. There are better things I'd like to be associated with. "Star Trek" means less than nothing to me.

**Are you difficult to work with? A pain in the ass, as Roddenberry claimed?**
It depends on your definition of the word difficult. Not to be difficult, in television, means that you are an absolute wuss who does whatever is asked of you. That you have no self-respect. That you have no dignity. That you don't care about the things that you've created. That you write for the buck, and if they tell you to turn the woman into a whore or turn the guy into a green duck, you do it because that's where the buck is. [*Loud*] *I don't.* My allegiance is not to producers, my allegiance is not to networks or production companies or directors. My allegiance is to the story, it's to the Art, that's what I write for. [*Louder*] *I'm a good writer!* You turn me loose and let me do my job and I'll win you an award. I keep doing it all the time! The only time the stuff turns into crap is when all these people who are idiots and not writers themselves have to have their input. [*Louder still*] *F--- 'em and their input!* They can take their input and jam it up their ass! [*Completely calm, smiling*]...he said, without any hysteria at all.

**Being difficult certainly seems to have paid off for you.**
[*Nods, smiles*] I've led a terrific life. I've known great, great people. I've worked with Lenny Bruce, I marched with Martin Luther King, I went on tour with the Rolling Stones. I was close friends with Isaac Asimov. When I hear someone talk about what a piece of sh-- I am, I say, "I can't be a piece of sh--, man, because Isaac Asimov loved me!"

**What's left to do that you haven't already accomplished?**
I suppose to keep working until I croak. That's an end in itself, although sometimes Susan insists I'll live forever.

**That won't please your enemies.**
My enemies? [*Chuckles*] I will live to piss into the open mouths or the open graves of my enemies, whichever comes first.

---

*Los Angeles-based writer Scott Brick really, REALLY hopes to never be considered an Enemy of Ellison. He's read what can happen to 'em.*

**WHAT DREAMS MAY COME** With the publication of *Harlan Ellison's Dream Corridor* #1 back in 1995, one of Ellison's own dreams came true: his very own comic book series.


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# 'MARVEL'OUS ISLAND

## WIZARD TAKES A TOUR OF MARVEL'S ISLAND OF ADVENTURE

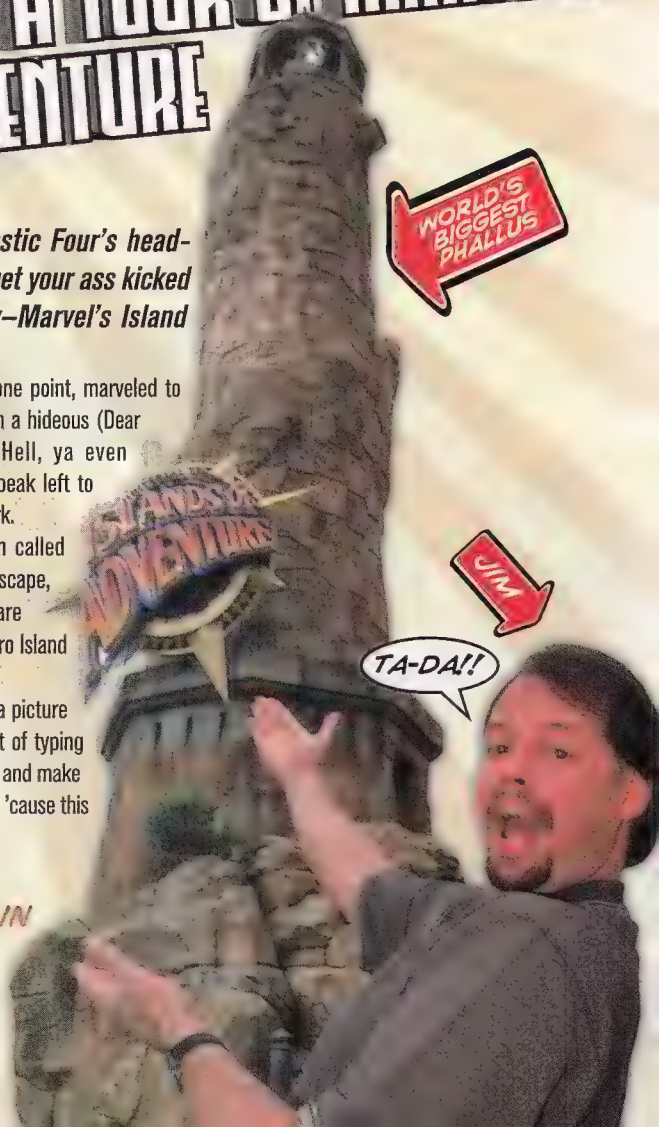
***Okay, hot shot: Where can you eat at the Fantastic Four's headquarters, ride a roller coaster run by the Hulk and get your ass kicked by the Sinister Syndicate? Only one place, baby–Marvel's Island of Adventure.***

Chances are, you probably owned Spider-Man Underoos at one point, marveled to "Fantastic Four" cartoons, an "Incredible Hulk" TV series and even a hideous (Dear God! He's got rubber ears!) "Captain America" movie. Hell, ya even chowed down on X-Men Chef Boyardee pasta. Seems the only peak left to climb–that final geeky frontier–would be a Marvel amusement park.

Well, put on your climbin' shoes, 'cause in a magical town called Orlando, Fla., at a double-magical place called Universal Studios Escape, the final frontier has arrived. The Universal Islands of Adventure are up and running, and a full-blown, gonzo-whopper Marvel Super Hero Island makes every other park look like sissie stuff.

COUNTDOWN TO WIZARD 2000

Now, we *could* tell you all about it. But if a picture is worth a thousand words, we can save a lot of typing by just *showing* you. So get yer ticket punched and make sure your mutant inhibitor collar is deactivated, 'cause this is Fantasy Island...Marvel style!




BY JIM "TRUE BELIEVER" McLAUCHLIN
PHOTOS BY PAUL SCHIRALDI, DAILY BUGLE BOY

THE FUN STARTS AS SOON AS YOU CROSS THE BRIDGE AND HEAD DOWN THE MAIN DRAG--STAN LEE BOULEVARD!

DON'T BE AFRAID, KIDDIES! EVERYTHING IS COMICS CODE APPROVED!

*HEY!* I DO THE JOKES! DON'T BE STEALIN' MY THUNDER, FAT BOY!

AND BRING YOUR AUTOGRAPH BOOK--THE PLACE IS SO DURNED COOL, IT'S *ALREADY* BECOME A HANGOUT FOR COMIC CREATORS!

HEY, YOU'RE *UNCANNY X-MEN* INKER AND MALE MODEL TIM TOWNSEND!

*SHHH!* DON'T LET X-MEN EDITOR BOB HARRAS KNOW I'M HERE! I'M BEHIND ON DEADLINES!

FIRST STOP: THE INCREDIBLE HULK COASTER--45 MILES PER HOUR OF RACIN', ROARIN' MAYHEM!

SO, WHADDYA SAY, TIM? WANNA GET NAUSEOUS AND AIM FOR TOURISTS?

I DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT TOO CRAZY ABOUT ROLLER COASTERS...

SUDDENLY...!

*¡MADRE DI DIOS!*

*¡LA VIDA LOCA!*

*RRAGH!* PUNY HUMANS WILL RIDE *HULK'S* COASTER!

KRAK-A-THOOM!

IN THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF DR. ROBERT BRUCE BANNER...

*RRAGH!* ALL HULK'S EQUIPMENT MEET SAFETY STANDARDS! HULK CHECK HIMSELF!

BUT YOU HAVE LESS EDUCATION THAN MOST SOUTHERNERS!

'BYE, MOM! I LOVE YOU!

SOMETIME DURING THE SEVEN (*SEVEN!*) INVERSIONS AND TWO SUB-TERRANEAN TUNNELS...

JIM'S RECEDING HAIRLINE

...I THINK I SEE GOD...

WOW, AT MACH 2, I AM *HOT!!*

JIM'S URINE

THIS PHOTO IS COURTESY OF THE HULK COASTER'S SUPER-DOOPER CAMERA THINGIE.

ONE GAMMA-IRRADIATED RIDE LATER...

EYES... PUSHED... INTO...BRAIN!

TWO McMUFFINS COMING UP.

UH-OH...

AFTER A FEW MINUTES TO RECUPERATE, THINGS LOOK BETTER.

HEY, THAT COASTER *DID* SOMETHING TO ME! I'M FEELIN' HULKED UP!

WHY STUPID HUMAN NOT LEAVE HULK ALONE?

NOTHING PERSONAL. HE ANNOYS EVERYONE.

WITHOUT A MOMENT TO SPARE, OUR HEROES DASH TO THE *DAILY BUGLE* BUILDING!

SO J. JONAH JAMESON'S HIRING. SAYS HE NEEDS A COUPLE GUYS TO COVER A STORY.

YEAH, I HEAR DOC OCK IS ATTACKING! AND IF WE LOSE A LIMB, WE CASH OUT BIG ON INSURANCE!

AND IN THE *DAILY BUGLE* CITY ROOM...

UMMM...YOU THINK WE SHOULD BE SITTING IN THE PROPS LIKE THIS?

DUDE, WE'RE FROM *WIZARD*. WE CAN DO *ANYTHING!*

SECURITY!!

AND AS OUR INTREPID REPORTERS HOP IN THE *BUGLE*'S SCP CAR (THAT'S SURVEILLANCE COMMUNICATION PATROL) FOR THE "ADVENTURES OF SPIDER-MAN" 3-D SIMULATOR...

3-D IS THE WAY TO BE!

JUST LIKE NEW YORK! KAMIKAZE CAB DRIVERS UP AHEAD!

A MERE ARTIST'S RENDITION WHICH DOES THE RIDE LITTLE JUSTICE. TRUST US--IT'S WAY COOL! THE RIDE GOES OVER 1 1/2 ACRES, AND THERE'S A SIMULATED 400-FOOT DROP. TOWNSEND DAMN NEAR THREW UP.

HEY... WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE WHITE GUYS?

WHO CARES? JUST PULL SPIDEY'S FINGER.

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THE DAY HAVING BEEN SAVED, OUR HEROES WALK UNDER A HUMONGOID, ADAM KUBERT-DRAWN WOLVERINE...

SO I WONDER WHAT OTHER GOOFBALLS HANG OUT HERE?

I CAN SEE UP HIS NOSE.

PSSSST... OVER HERE!

WOLVERINE! HE'S SLIGHTLY MORE PSYCHO THAN THE AVERAGE CANADIAN!*

C'MERE AND CHECK OUT THE ULTIMATE MARVEL MERCHANDISE STORE!

*NOT TRUE! ALL CANADIANS ARE EQUALLY NUTS!

INSIDE...

SEE? EVEN GOT THE SECTION O' SIDEWALK GWEN STACY LANDED ON.

KEEN!

MY FACE IS STUCK LIKE THIS!

ALL MERCHANDISE IS QUALITY-CHECKED BY WOLVERINE HIMSELF.

SO WHATCHOO THINK?

SNIFF SNIFF

YEP, THAT'S MARVEL AUTHENTIC. RING IT UP!

ONE SHOPPING SPREE AND $367.53 BILLED TO *WIZARD* LATER...

NOT SO FAST! I'M THE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT I DO. AND WHAT I DO IS BODY-CAVITY SHOPLIFTING SEARCHES.

HOT-CHA!

HEY, KIDS! GREAT BOXER SHORTS AVAILABLE ONLY AT THE MARVEL ISLAND! A BARGAIN AT $16 A POP!

AFTER ONE INVASIVE AND UNCOMFORTABLE PROCEDURE DOLED OUT IN THE MIGHTY MARVEL MANNER...

AFTER THAT WOLVERINE INCIDENT, NOT EVEN DR. DOOM COULD FRIGHTEN ME!

OOGA-BOOGA!

INSIDE THE LATVERIAN EMBASSY...

AN EMBASSY? SO WE'RE NOT ON U.S. SOIL ANYMORE?

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER FOR TAX TIME!

SUDDENLY...

FOOLS! MY EVIL MACHINES WILL SUCK THE FEAR STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PORES!

...AT WHICH POINT I'M LEGALLY REQUIRED TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR FEAR WILL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF MARVEL ENTERPRISES, INC., A DIVISION OF TOY BIZ

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*GASP*... SEAT'S TOO...TIGHT ON LI'L JIM...

AT LEAST THE LACKEY IS KINDA CUTE, AS FAR AS EVIL MINIONS GO.

HE DOESN'T KNOW I CAN READ HIS THOUGHT BALLOON. GEEK.

CRUNCH!

AND WITH A 200-FOOT BLAST INTO THE SKY...

...ULP...

D'OH!

UH-OH...I LOST ANOTHER ONE.

WHEE! I AM A WILLING ACCOMPLICE IN THE EVIL MACHINATIONS OF DOOM!

AT LEAST THE EMBASSY GIFT SHOP LETS YOU BUY YOUR FEAR BACK...AT $2 A VIAL.

TH-TH-TH-TH-THANK YOU.

H-H-H-H-HOLD ME!

I'M LEGAL! AND TENDER!

AND NOTHING QUENCHES THE THIRST OF FEAR LIKE TASTY SODY POP FROM ONE OF THE ISLAND'S MANY CONCESSION STANDS.

HEY, SPIDEY--WANT SOME?

"WANT SOME?" WHAT'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

YES! GENUINE, ORIGINAL ARTHUR ADAMS ART ON THE CUPS! WOO-WEE!

*Writer and stuntman Jim McLauchlin was happy that Bruce Banner did, indeed, get out of that one. Photographer Paul Schiraldi was happy when he got back to his hotel, had a stiff drink, and re-entered the world of nongeekdom.*

# CASTING call

## WIZARD casts the MAGE MOVIE!

BY A BUNCH OF WIZARD STAFFERS

It's time for Hollywood to look up the definition of "hero" and get to work bringing "Mage" to the big screen!

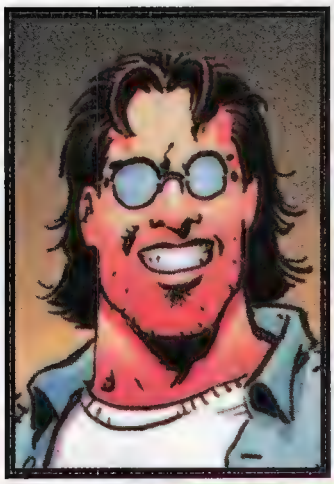
Starring Kevin Matchstick (the reincarnated spirit of King Arthur), *Mage: The Hero Defined* offers classic good-vs.-evil themes with regular, Gen-X guys cast in the heroes' roles. With his legendary sword, Excalibur—now in the form of a glowing baseball bat—in hand, Kevin's mission is to protect the Fisher King (read: the forces of good) against the forces of evil.

As Kevin wanders north in search of "nasties" to slay, he gathers friends who will help him in his fight—and he'll need them, as the evil they're up against is revealed to be profound. All in all, *Mage* is a ripe story that'll make a special-effects extravaganza to pack the multiplex.

Word around the campfire is that *Mage* writer/artist Matt Wagner is working now to bring his tale to the big screen, but no cast has been selected yet. May we offer our opinions?

AIDAN QUINN as
**KEVIN MATCHSTICK**

It's beyond us why Aidan Quinn ("Legends of the Fall") isn't a bigger star than he is—the guy's got talent and the looks of a Hollywood heartthrob. Bat in hand, Quinn could hit the role of Kevin Matchstick out of the park.

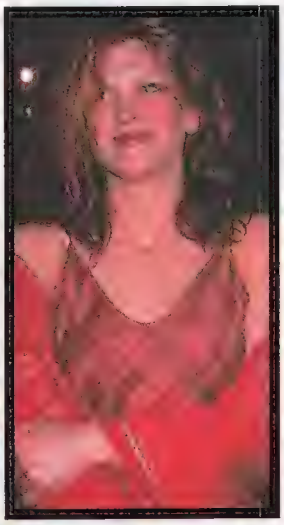


## KEVIN SORBO as KIRBY HERO

Kirby Hero is Hercules reborn, completing labors for his pop, Zeus. Kevin Sorbo plays Hercules on TV's syndicated "Hercules: The Legendary Journeys," bringing in big ratings every week, That's right, Kevin Sorbo ("Kull the Conqueror") is the obvious choice for Kirby Hero, the Olympian who's as long in the tooth as he is tougher than leather.

## JAMIE FOXX as JOE PHAT

With the powers of a coyote, Joe Phat is quicker than lightning and hungrier than a bear. Jamie Foxx of "Booty Call," one of the funniest guys around these days, would serve up the comic relief that we rely on Joe Phat for. Ha-hey!



## COURTNEY LOVE as MAGDA

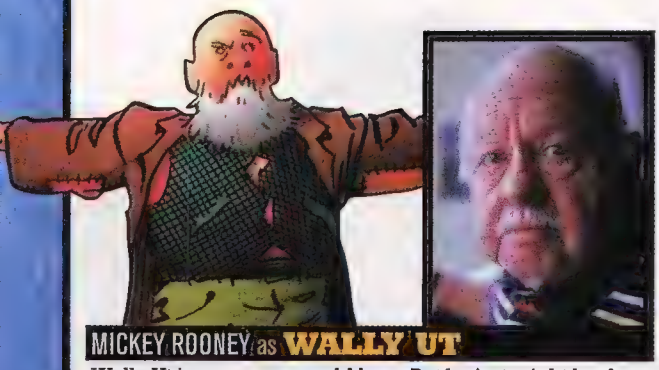
The cool enchantress with designs on Kevin's heart looks more like a punk rocker than a sorceress. Manic punk rocker and sometime-actress Courtney Love ("The People vs. Larry Flynt") would rock as the starry-eyed Magda.

## ANDY DICK as THE DRAGONSLAYER

Battles with his own inner demons have kept Andy Dick ("NewsRadio") in drug rehab for the last few years. If he could stay out of trouble long enough to play that *nouveau riche* bastard the Dragonslayer, he'd be the perfect choice.

## JASON LEE as HORNBLOWER

Kazoos can be powerful things. Just ask Hornblower, wanna-be squire to Kevin. Admittedly, that's a little difficult, so instead consult his mirror image: professional-skateboarder-turned-actor Jason Lee of "Mallrats" fame.



MICKEY ROONEY as **WALLY UT**

Wally Ut is one scummy old loon. But he just might be the next Mage, so Kevin has him along for the ride. Veteran character actor Mickey Rooney ("The Black Stallion") has played just about every role under the sun in his long, distinguished career, and with a giant beard and some raggy clothes, he could add "would-be wizard" to the list.

DIANE KEATON as **ISIS**

Believe it or not, there's actually a woman underneath that blond haystack and those enormous glasses. Diane Keaton ("The First Wives Club") learned how to act maniacally from Woody Allen himself. That makes her our whacked-out witch Isis.

GREG KINNEAR as **JOHN STRIDER**

They don't come any smarmier than Greg Kinnear ("Mystery Men")—that is, unless you count John Strider, the Christian. Strider's got the heart of an angel but the smile of the devil himself.

KEVIN SMITH as **GRETCH**

Kevin Smith ("Chasing Amy") is a giant in the comics industry. He's a giant in the film industry. Now all he has to do is put on a Kiss T-shirt and he can be Isis' giant butler, Gretch, in our "Mage" movie!

DAVID WARNER as **PALE INCANTER**

If David Warner were a flavor of ice cream...he'd be pissed off. With various bad-ass roles in films like "Titanic" and "Time Bandits," Warner doesn't seem to have a cute bone in his body. In the shoes of the troublemaking demon Pale Incanter, he'd make us fearful of his bad side.

EMINEM as **SIGMUND**

Hi! My name is...Sigmund? Rap flavor of the month Marshall Mathers, a.k.a. Eminem, is every mother's worst nightmare. Sigmund, chief lackey of the Pale Incanter, is a skateboarding, slang-talking punk. Strap Eminem to a flying board and you've got roughly the same thing.

**QUIET ON THE SET!**

KEVIN SORBO, JAMIE FOXX, DAVID WARNER, DIANE KEATON, JASON LEE AND GREG KINNEAR: PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE EVERETT COLLECTION. AIDAN QUINN © NAOMI KALTMAN/OUTLINE; ANDY DICK © LAURA LUDWIG/OUTLINE; KEVIN SMITH © NATHANIEL WELCH/OUTLINE; COURTNEY LOVE © STEVE SANDS/OUTLINE; MICKEY ROONEY © TIMOTHY GREENFIELD/OUTLINE; EMINEM © ROGER ERICKSON/OUTLINE

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Starring Lara Croft
An all new ongoing series coming soon from
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NOVEMBER

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# COMING attracti

HEATER AR YOU MAYBE

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY

### Stewart, McKellan and Berry give 'X-Men' movie punch

The presence of **Patrick Stewart**, **Halle Berry**, **Sir Ian McKellen** and **Rebecca Romijn-Stamos** assures that the upcoming "X-Men" film will have star quality. Yet it's director Bryan Singer's approach that guarantees the 20th Century Fox film won't just be a special-effects fest. With dark, suspense hits like "The Usual Suspects" and "Apt Pupil," you can expect substance to go along with the style.

"Bryan stands for the hip, cool, intellectual part of moviemaking," said executive producer Avi Arad. "He brings in the tone that deserves to be the tone for the 'X-Men,' because the 'X-Men' has a lot of philosophy. It's a big action film, but it's based on philosophy and angst and the whole idea that they're all mutants. Bryan related to it on an intellectual level and started looking for the right [cast]."

And those right people include some pretty serious A-list talents. For starters, Stewart ("Star Trek: The Next Generation") has officially signed on as the merry mutants' mentor and team founder, Professor Charles Xavier. Stewart has long been rumored to be up for the part, and his coming on board gives some serious credence to the film.

"We're pretty ecstatic," exclaimed Arad. "Stewart was already the people's favorite to play Professor X. Everyone just expected it to be him; it was never a question. Landing him was very, *very* important."

Playing Xavier's one-time friend and the film's main villain, Magneto, is McKellen ("Apt Pupil"). Having such a serious actor on board certainly turned heads and more than likely opened some doors.

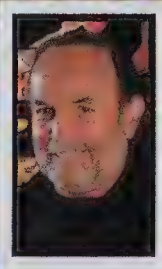
"Ian McKellen is an actor's actor," said Arad. "He is one of these unique actors who made the transformation from stage to film, and everything he did is memorable. When you're an actor and you hear that Ian McKellen is in a movie directed by Bryan Singer, it starts a groundswell. It starts a feeling of, 'Wait a second, this is a project I want to be involved in.'"

Possibly the biggest casting news, however, centers around the X-Men's most popular member: Wolverine. For months, rumors circulated that Russell Crowe ("L.A. Confidential") and Mel Gibson ("Lethal Weapon," "Braveheart") were being considered for the part of the savage mutant. Yet **Dougray Scott**, on the rise with roles in "Ever After" and "Mission Impossible 2," landed the role. Comic fans may be a bit unclear why the newcomer snatched the part, but according to Arad, he couldn't be more perfect.

"When you meet the guy," he said, "you look at him and there's something about his eyes, the way he carries himself, that makes you say, 'Wow, this is Logan.' This is Logan with all of the animal sex

### CLOSE UP AVI ARAD

FACTS & FACES



**AVI ARAD**, 51, the president and CEO of Marvel Media, has had his hands in Marvel films and animation for quite some time. He helped launch both "X-Men" and "Spider-Man" animated series in the '90s, and was executive producer for 1998's successful "Blade" film starring Wesley Snipes. Currently, Arad is executive producing the live-action "X-Men" film scheduled to begin shooting in September.

# ons

appeal that Logan brought to the X-Men, and what Dougray will bring to the movie."

And what sort of "X-Men" movie would it be without the X-Women? Playing the team's weather-controlling Storm is veteran actress **Halle Berry**. "Halle Berry is a unique combination of beauty and talent," remarked Arad. "She will do an exemplary job because Storm is dramatic. She comes from angst and pain and still has that ability to have optimism and beauty. Halle is the ultimate picture of what Storm should be like."

Filling out the role (quite nicely!) of Magneto's blue-skinned, shapeshifting ally Mystique is international supermodel **Rebecca Romijn-Stamos**. "I cannot wait to see her all in blue!" exclaimed Arad. "Just having looked at the costume and looked at her, the combination will be deadly, which is exactly the role she has."

Rounding out the current cast is the towering, seven-foot-tall, former pro wrestler **Tyler Mane** as Wolverine's archfoe Sabretooth, and award-winning actress **Anna Paquin** ("The Piano," "Hurlyburly") as the young Southern mutant Rogue.

As of press time, no one had officially signed on for the roles of fellow X-Men Cyclops or Jean Grey. But that doesn't mean rumors aren't flying faster than the X-Men's Blackbird jet. Rumored to be up for Cyclops are Luke Wilson ("Home Fries"), Johnny Lee Miller ("Hackers") and Edward Burns ("Saving Private Ryan"). Alicia Witt ("Urban Legend"), Charlize Theron ("Mighty Joe Young") and Jeri Ryan ("Star Trek: Voyager") are said to be among those who've tried out for the part of Jean Grey.

Set for a summer 2000 release, filming on "X-Men" is scheduled to begin this September. ■ **PATRICK SAURIOL & SORRELL BOOKE**

**SANITY CLAWS** Don't this teaser poster for the X-Men movie look kinda neat?

ARAD PHOTO BY GABE PALACIO. STEWART, BERRY, PAQUIN, STERN PHOTOS COURTESY OF EVERETT COLLECTION. SCOTT, McKELLEN PHOTOS COURTESY OF FOTO FANTASIES. ROMIJN-STAMOS © STEVE SANDS/RETINE. MANE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DETROIT NEWS. STAR WARS ™ & © LUCASFILM LTD. MOSS PHOTO BY JASON BOLAND. MYSTERY MEN PHOTOS BY MELINDA SUE GORDON/ © 1999 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS.

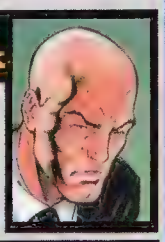
## ROLECALL

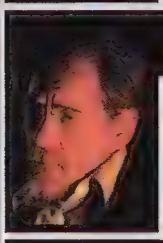
X-ACTLY WHOM IS GOING TO PLAY WHOM

**Casting for Fox's live-action "X-Men" flick finally kicks into gear! Who's donning which tights? Read on!**

PATRICK STEWART as **PROFESSOR X**

Fans' ideal choice from the get-go, Stewart ("Star Trek") brings star power and immediate legitimacy to the film. And hey, he's a dead ringer.



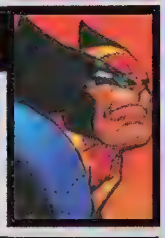


IAN McKELLEN as **MAGNETO**

McKellen, who impressed director Singer with his horrifying turn as a Nazi in "Apt Pupil," reteams with the director for another go 'round.

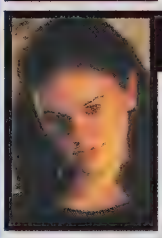
DOUGRAY SCOTT as **WOLVERINE**

After months of casting rumors involving Mel Gibson and Russell Crowe, Scott ("Ever After") clawed his way to the top of the X-heap.



HALLE BERRY as **STORM**

Actress/model Berry ("Executive Decision") brings instant sex appeal to the X-cast as the team's sultry, weather-controlling Storm.



ANNA PAQUIN as **ROGUE**

Paquin, 17, will have her Oscar-winning pedigree challenged to pull off a 20-something Southern belle with emotional baggage.

REBECCA ROMIJN-STAMOS as **MYSTIQUE**

We hope international supermodel Romijn-Stamos doesn't change her appearance too much as the evil shapeshifter who hooks up with Magneto.

TYLER MANE as **SABRETOOTH**

Size matters. 7-foot tall former pro wrestler Mane should easily fill out the imposing presence of Wolverine's nasty nemesis.

# BRAVE NEW WORLD

## Fox's new 'Spider-Man' toon sends Web-head to alternate Earth

Saturday mornings just got stickier. That's because your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man is back. Thing is, he's not back in *your* neighborhood.

"**Spider-Man Unlimited**," Fox's all-new animated series airing Saturdays next fall, features the wall-crawler on a completely different planet known as Counter Earth. "In this continuity, Counter Earth has just been discovered by scientists on our planet," revealed producer Will Meugniot. "They send a probe to investigate Counter Earth, but the probe is mysteriously destroyed. This being the Spider-Man Universe, they send John Jameson to investigate. While John is on the mission getting ready to take off, Peter Parker senses something's awry—**Venom** and **Carnage** have arrived on the scene. They have an agenda on Counter Earth and stow away on the shuttle."

So with a friend and two deadly enemies lost in another world, it's only a matter of time before Spider-Man heads after them. To prepare himself for the unknown, however, Peter takes some extra insurance: a new Spider-Man costume. "The new suit is built of microscopic nano-tech robots, which Spidey boosted from Reed Richards," Meugniot said of the costume. "When Peter has the opportunity to go to Counter Earth, he knows Venom and Carnage could be there as well as God knows what. So this is the equivalent of him packing an elephant gun. It has a very, very limited range of weapons, but some are kind of cool. It also has certain stealth abilities and he can fire stingers and impact webbing from a separate nozzle."

Once Spidey arrives on Counter Earth, he soon learns things ain't as rosy as back home. Apparently, the High Evolutionary's taken over and molded the planet into his own image. His half-human/half-animal creations known as the Beastials are the privileged members of society, while normal humans are an oppressed minority. To fit in, Peter, an undocumented human, takes a job at a sleazy tabloid newspaper that pays in cash and asks no questions. And there are plenty of superheroes and villains here too, including the Vulture, Machine Men and the Knights of Wundagore.

"Some of them are the results of the High Evolutionary's experiments to make better people, or Beastials the High Evolutionary thinks he made a horrible mistake with," said Meugniot. "They become superheroes in essence to help the people they think are being oppressed."

While Peter's off trying to stop the symbiotes and find Jameson, he'll be painfully aware of his life waiting for him back home. "Unlimited" fits into continuity during the time Mary Jane and Peter were engaged. 13 episodes have been ordered so far, with the possibility of more to come if fans like what they see. And Meugniot's hoping the series' new look will do just that.

"I always thought that Spider-Man was a character that looked best at night, so we're doing nights but with a different texture than say 'Batman: The Animated Series.' We're still trying to do something unique, but also a show with a Marvel-type look the fans will enjoy seeing." PS

# HOLLYWOOD BUZZ

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON THE HOLLYWOOD SCENE

**'STAR WARS, EPISODE TWO' SCOOP!** Early reports on the next Star Wars flick say it chronicles Darth Sidious' control of the galaxy, as well as the romance and marriage of Anakin and the Queen. Plus, one of the characters briefly seen in "Phantom Menace" will play an important role: a ghostly white female bounty hunter named Aurra Sing (she's seen on Jabba's balcony shortly before the podrace starts). And word on the street is that Leonardo DiCaprio ("Titanic") might be the first choice to play the older Anakin Skywalker in the next two "Star Wars" movies.

**WORLD'S FINEST FLICK!** Word on the street is that Warner Bros. has returned to the idea of a Superman/Batman team-up movie, with Batman playing more of a bad-guy role in the film.

**CASTING 'RINGS'!** Casting rumors abound for the live-action "Lord of the Rings" film, with Sean Connery ("Entrapment"), Ian McKellen ("X-Men") and Patrick Stewart ("Star Trek") supposedly up for the role as wizard Gandalf, and Keanu Reeves ("The Matrix") expressing interest as the warrior Strider. Elijah Wood ("Deep Impact") and Claudia Christian ("Babylon 5") are also rumored to be up for parts.

**BACK TO THE FUTURE...AGAIN!** Stephen Clark, president of the "Back to the Future" fan club (www.bttf.com), was recently tipped off by an insider that Universal Pictures might have hired screenwriter Ed Solomon ("Men in Black") to come up with ideas for numbers four and five of the mid-'80s "Back to the Future" movie franchise.

# TRAILERS...

STERN

**STERN SURVIVES APOCALYPSE:** Shock jock Howard Stern is developing an animated series for the Film Roman production company called "Doomsday" about a family that drives around the wasteland of America in a motor home after the end of the world has taken place.

**ON THE JOB:** Warner Bros. has started production on "Osmosis Jones," a full-length animated movie about a white blood cell who patrols the bloodstream of construction worker Frank Demotello. When an evil virus threatens to destroy "the city of Frank," it's up to Jones and his rookie partner (a by-the-book cold tablet) to stop him. Expect the movie in theaters by Thanksgiving 2000, followed by 13 episodes of a "Jones" cartoon series on Kids WB!.

**MARS STARS:** Get ready to watch mankind's first landing on Mars next year–twice. Warner Bros.' "Mars" stars Carrie-Anne Moss ("The Matrix") as the pilot of the first Mars mission spaceship. Disney's "Mission to Mars," starring Gary Sinise ("Forrest Gump") and Tim Robbins ("The Shawshank Redemption"), with Brian De Palma ("Mission: Impossible") directing, is about a rescue mission assigned to find out what happened to the first Mars mission. Both are expected to hit theaters around summer 2000.

**DICE ARE ROLLING:** Filming has begun on the $35-million "Dungeons and Dragons" movie which stars Jeremy Irons ("Die Hard with a Vengeance"), Justin Whalin ("Lois & Clark"), Marlon Wayans ("Senseless") and Thora Birch ("Patriot Games"). The movie is expected in theaters next year.

**SHORT TAKES:** Gilbert Shelton's *The Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers*, the long-running underground comic chronicling the adventures of free-wheeling hippies, is being developed as an animated movie... Former Malibu Comics owner Scott Rosenberg's new comic, *Million Dollar Heroes*, is being developed as a movie for New Line Cinema... New Line also hopes to begin work developing a sequel to "The Mask" soon, with a new actor wearing the crazy headgear...Dave Foley ("NewsRadio"), Megan Mullally ("Will and Grace") and Paul Reubens ("Mystery Men") have joined the cast of "Monkey Bone"...George Romero (director of "Night of the Living Dead") has been fired from the "Resident Evil" movie...Chris Carter's new "Harsh Realm" series has been picked up by Fox for a minimum of 13 episodes and is likely to get a full season commitment.

CARRIE-ANNE MOSS

# UNSTRUNG HEROES

## 'Mystery Men' gives loser superheroes a good name

MR. FURIOUS

The Shoveler. Mister Furious. The Spleen. Blue Raja, Master of Silverware. Who are they? Well, let's just say that's one mystery even Agatha Christie would steer clear of. But for the rest of us, they're the Mystery Men, this summer's most unlikely superhero team.

Created by comic writer/artist Bob Burden as a spin-off to his offbeat Flaming Carrot comic, these adventurers are the latest superheroes to grace the silver screen, courtesy of Universal Pictures. "They're regular fellas," Burden said. "I extrapolated Flaming Carrot into a whole team of second-string, blue-collar, mediocre, middle-town, hillbilly, redneck, backwater, podunk characters. Instead of making it the biggest and the best, I said let's make it the weakest and the worst. That'll be a more interesting story."

In the mid-'80s, Burden started kicking around the concept for adding a group of second-rate superheroes to *Flaming Carrot*—albeit more traditional looking than the Carrot—to appear in the comic. The idea snowballed and before long, Burden had created a whole team of misfit heroes, the Mystery Men, in 1987's *Flaming Carrot* #16. The following year, the book was picked up by Dark Horse Comics. Almost a decade later, Dark Horse Comics President Mike Richardson was pitching the movie to producers Lloyd Levin and Lawrence Gordon ("Boogie Nights").

"We saw the bible which detailed the flexibility of the book and outlined about 30 heroes and 15 villains, weapons and vehicles—and we fell in love with it," recalled Levin. The producers brought it to Universal and screenwriters Neil Cuthbert ("Hocus Pocus") and Brent Forrester (story editor on "The Simpsons") to write a script based on Burden's 10-page pitch.

Levin and his partner attracted star actors from both comedic and dramatic circles, including Oscar-winning Geoffrey Rush ("Shine," "Elizabeth") as the villainous Casanova Frankenstein, Ben Stiller ("There's Something About Mary") as Mr. Furious, Janeane Garofalo ("The Truth About Cats and Dogs") as the Bowler and

THE SHOVELER

THE BOWLER

# MYSTERYPLAY

AND A CAST OF THOUSANDS

**Comic creator Bob Burden originally conceived of the Mystery Men as having the highest fatality percentage of any superhero team ever. Here's a look at the stars of this summer's mysterious motion picture:**

**MISTER FURIOUS (BEN STILLER)** The group's loose cannon, he gets his power from his anger, and he's always angry. His origin sequence is worth the price of admission itself.

**THE SHOVELER (WILLIAM H. MACY)** This shovel-wielding crusader of justice doesn't fight crime for glory or because of some deep emotional scarring; instead, he just wants his kids to be proud of their dad.

**THE BLUE RAJA (HANK AZARIA)** A deadly expert when it comes to the weapons of cutlery, the Raja looks for his next round of weapons while rooting through his mom's kitchen cabinet.

**THE SPLEEN (PAUL REUBENS)** He can eat anything and release corrosive fluids and gases. Hmm...just like the *Wizard* staff!

**THE BOWLER (JANEANE GAROFALO)** Mess with this chick on or off the ten-pin lane and you'll wind up in the gutter. She's the daughter of the original Bowler, a legendary superhero.

**INVISIBLE BOY (KEL MITCHELL)** He has the power to become invisible only when no one is looking at him–not his parents, not his teammates, not his enemies, not even himself. Wicked power, huh?

**THE SPHINX (WES STUDI)** A legendary masked Mexican wrestler/expert machete master who's now a superhero. He's the only superhero who the other team members wonder why he's on this team in particular.

**NON-"MYSTERY MEN" MEN**

**CAPTAIN AMAZING (GREG KINNEAR)** The beloved protector of Champion City and sworn archenemy of Casanova Frankenstein. Popular, loved by little kids, with a great set of teeth, he's everything the Mystery Men are not.

**CASANOVA FRANKENSTEIN (GEOFFREY RUSH)** Twenty years ago Casanova dominated Champion City with his gang of Disco Boys until Captain Amazing defeated him. Now he's back for revenge.

**DOC HELLER (TOM WAITS)** Some might call him a mad scientist, but to the Mystery Men he's their supplier of weapons like the Canned Tornado, the Shrinker gun and Blame Throwers.

William H. Macy ("Fargo") as the Men's makeshift leader, the Shoveler. "Every attempt was made in the mounting of the production to emphasize that this was a character-oriented comedy," remarks Levin. "We really wanted to emphasize that this was a different kind of summer movie. There were certain people we felt we just had to have. Fortunately, these characters were very attractive to talent."

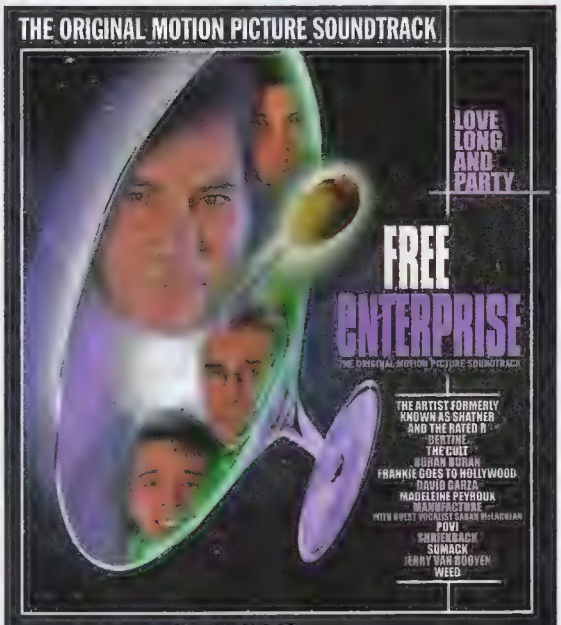
Burden is enthusiastic about what's he's seen so far. "The guy lends his vision to the film," Burden says of Kinka Usher, who's previously directed the popular Taco Bell commercials featuring the talking chihuahua. "The movie is kind of unique. It's like nothing you've ever seen before. The way he cut it, the way he put it together looks pretty cool."

And if the movie's a hit, this could be the start of a new superhero franchise. "There's such a wealth of material, there're still a lot of things we can do," noted Levin. "I really believe the characters are the most important element of the movie, and I hope there's a uniqueness and accessibility that the audience finds really refreshing."

While "Mystery Men" is a comedy, it's also incredibly sincere, according to Levin. "It's an ugly duckling story about a bunch of guys who are told by everyone that they're losers. It's about holding on to your beliefs and not being dissuaded from them and ultimately having the courage to become what you believe yourself to be." ■ PS

THE BLUE RAJA

THE SPLEEN


First 10,000 CDs contain a
LIMITED EDITION collectible TRADING CARD
Includes the "*No Tears For Caesar*" rap as seen in the movie and performed by The Artist Formerly Known As Shatner & The Rated R
SPECIAL LINER NOTES BY : Mark A. Altman, Robert Meyer Burnett, William Shatner

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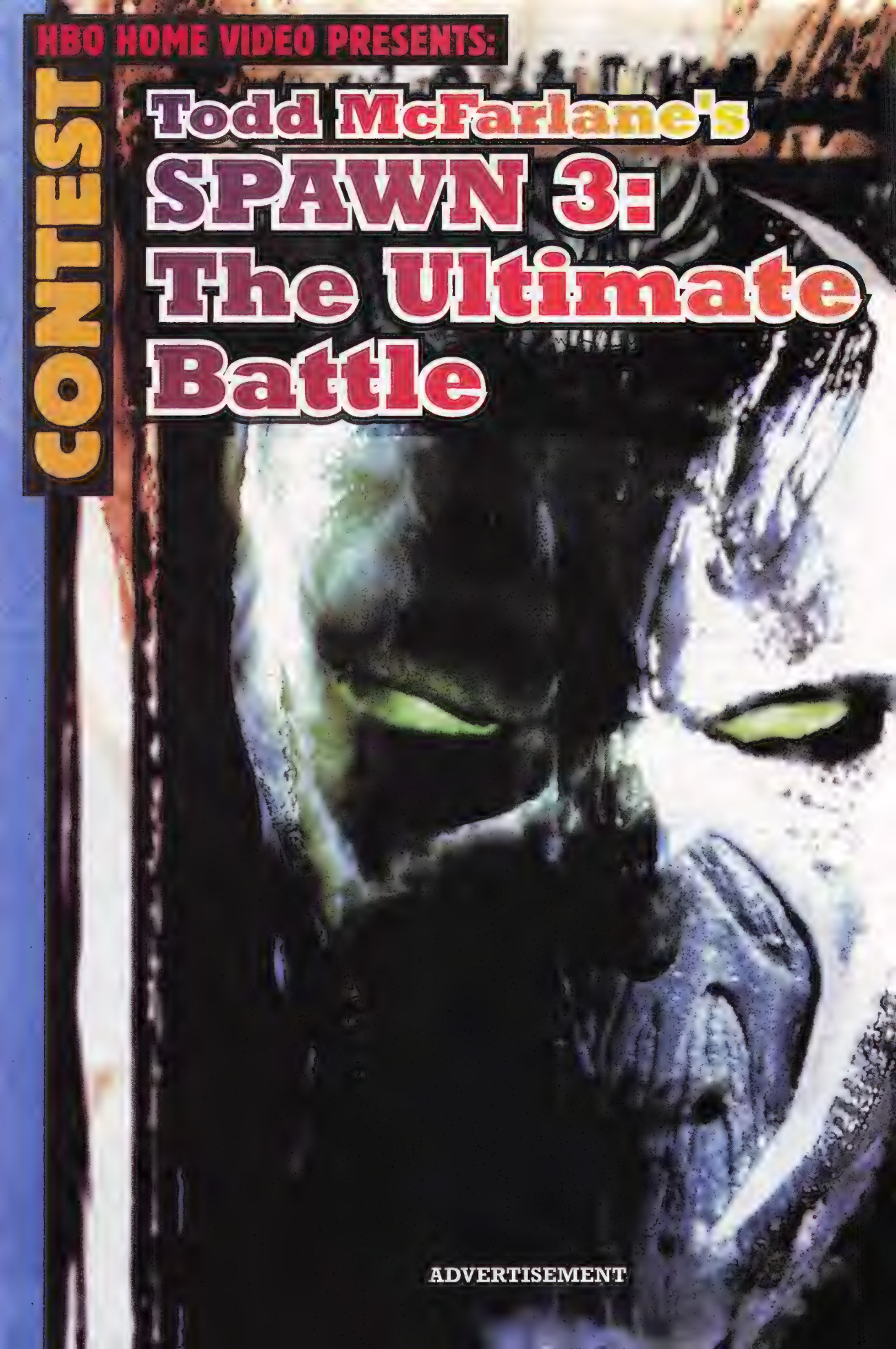

HBO HOME VIDEO PRESENTS:
CONTEST
Todd McFarlane's
SPAWN 3:
The Ultimate
Battle
ADVERTISEMENT

# PRIZES

**GRAND PRIZE (1):** Copy of "Todd McFarlane's Spawn 3': The Ultimate Battle" from HBO Home Video, Signed Spawn 3': The Ultimate Battle animation cel, Signed set of Spawn Series 14 Dark Ages figures, Signed Spawn Trade Paperback, Free set of 1/2 offers from Wizard.

**FIRST PRIZE (4):** Copy of "Todd McFarlane's Spawn 3': The Ultimate Battle" from HBO Home Video, Signed set of Spawn Series 14 Dark Ages figures, Signed Spawn Trade Paperback.

**SECOND PRIZE (10):** Copy of "Todd McFarlane's Spawn 3': The Ultimate Battle" from HBO Home Video, Signed Spawn Trade Paperback.

Wanna be the first in your alley to own this cool stuff? Simply fill out the entry form below completely (and neatly), stick it in an envelope, mail it on in and we'll pick the lucky winners at random! Get to it! Contest is only open to those 18 years and older.

Copy of "Todd McFarlane's Spawn 3': The Ultimate Battle" from HBO Home Video (Uncut Collector's Edition for mature audiences) will be available in comic book & video stores everywhere on August 24, 1999. Go get one!

HBO® HOME VIDEO

**THIS CONTEST IS SPONSORED BY HBO HOME VIDEO**

## HBO–BOY, WHAT A CONTEST!

No purchase necessary. Contest is open to anyone except employees of Wizard Entertainment, HBO Home Video, Todd McFarlane Productions, their immediate families and members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Come on, the "Spawn" movie was definitely worthy of a nomination! Print your name, date of birth, address, city, state, zip, e-mail address and telephone number with area code on the official entry form or a 3 by 5 inch index card and attach the form or card to your entry. Enter as many times as you like. Mail each entry separately to: "Todd McFarlane's Spawn 3': The Ultimate Battle" from HBO Home Video Contest, c/o Wizard Entertainment, P.O. Box 118, Congers, NY 10920-0118. No mechanical reproductions of completed forms are accepted, but you can photocopy the entry form before filling it out if you don't want to mess up your magazine. All entries become property of Wizard Entertainment and none will be returned. All taxes (federal, state and local, if any) will be the responsibility of the prize winners. Prizes are awarded in the names of the contest winners and are not transferable. Offer void where prohibited, regulated or restricted by law in a manner inconsistent with the purposes and rules hereof. **All entries must be received at contest headquarters by September 30, 1999.** Wizard Entertainment is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected or mutilated entries. Winners will be selected by random drawing by Wizard Entertainment. Odds of winning will be determined by the number of valid entries received prior to the closing date of the contest. If an entrant having been declared as a winner does not accept the prize or prize notification is undeliverable, another entry will be selected. In the event that a prize is not available or it becomes impossible for the sponsor to award the prize which has been designated, the sponsor retains the right to substitute a prize or product of equal value to the winner. Determination of whether a prize or product is of equal value is in the sole discretion of the sponsor. Winning entries will be selected on or about October 15, 1999.

For a list of winners, available after October 15, 1999 send a self addressed stamped envelope to ""Todd McFarlane's Spawn 3': The Ultimate Battle" from HBO Home Video Winner List, c/o Wizard Entertainment, P.O. Box 118, Congers, NY 10920-0118

ENTER NOW!

Fill this out, attach your entry and photos and put it all in an envelope. Send it to:

**"Todd McFarlane's Spawn 3': The Ultimate Battle" from HBO Home Video's Art Contest**
**c/o Wizard Entertainment**
**P.O. Box 118**
**Congers, NY 10920-0118**

**"Todd McFarlane's Spawn 3': The Ultimate Battle" from HBO Home Video Contest Entry Form**

**CONTEST DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30, 1999!**

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (with area code) _____

E-mail Address _____

**DID YOU ATTACH YOUR ENTRY AND PHOTOS?**

# BASIC TRAINING

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL INSTRUCTOR

## JIM CALAFIORE SHOWS YOU

# HOW TO USE PERSPECTIVE: PART II

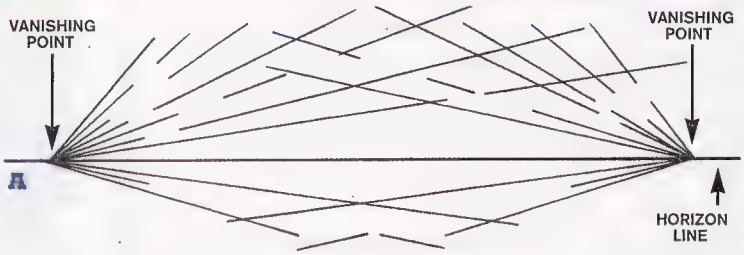
PHOTO BY JOSEPH SCHIVILER

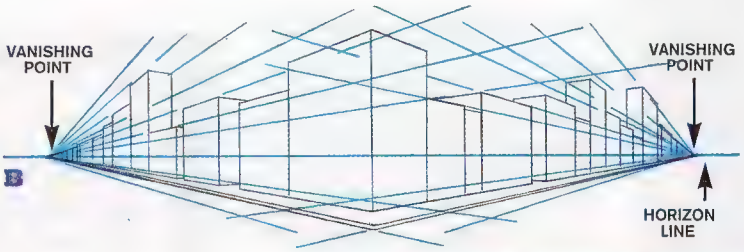
**Well, I'm back. Last month we beat one-point perspective into submission, and now we're ready to tackle two- and three-point perspective. In one sense, as long as you've got a basic understanding of one-point perspective, the rest is a matter of adding additional perspective. In another sense, however, it's nowhere near that simple. But I'm wasting space, so let's just get to it...**

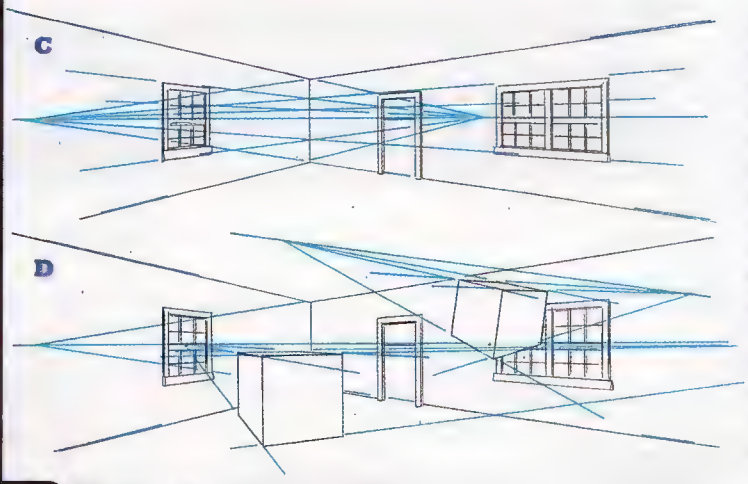
## MAKE YOUR POINTS

Where one-point perspective deals with the foreshortening of one dimension of an object, two-point perspective deals with (You guessed it!) the foreshortening of two dimensions. As with any perspective, we have a horizon line (or eye line) running parallel to the camera plane. This time, since we're "describing" two dimensions in perspective, we have two separate vanishing points on the horizon which radiate lines of perspective that intersect (see figure A). Roughing in the primary shapes in a drawing will help locate the vanishing points that will generate the rest of the objects in the scene.

In figure B, we're facing the corner of our simplified buildings. Neither the depth nor the width are parallel to the camera plane (only the height is), so we show them foreshortened.



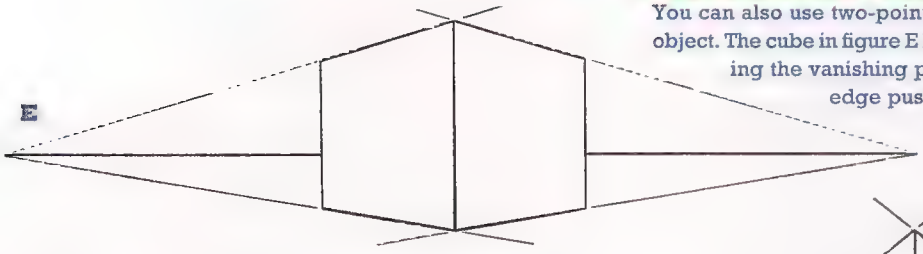

## HOUSE POINTING

And here's our room interior, similarly aligned. Note that with interiors— unless you're deliberately distorting reality—only two walls of a rectangular room are visible in two-point perspective. In figure D, I've added a couple of objects to the room that have their own perspective. The cube on the floor is oriented to the room's horizon line, but rotated so that its depth and width demand their own vanishing points. The floating cube's position requires points on its own horizon line, this time an imaginary one.

Now, I haven't created any new rules here, I've just used two-point perspective more than once. With any perspective, multiple objects can require multiple horizon lines, depending on their orientation.

## BENDING THE CUBE

You can also use two-point perspective to help distort an object. The cube in figure E looks quite normal. But by bringing the vanishing points closer together, the front edge pushes forward unnaturally, giving the cube a fish-eye lens effect (figure F).



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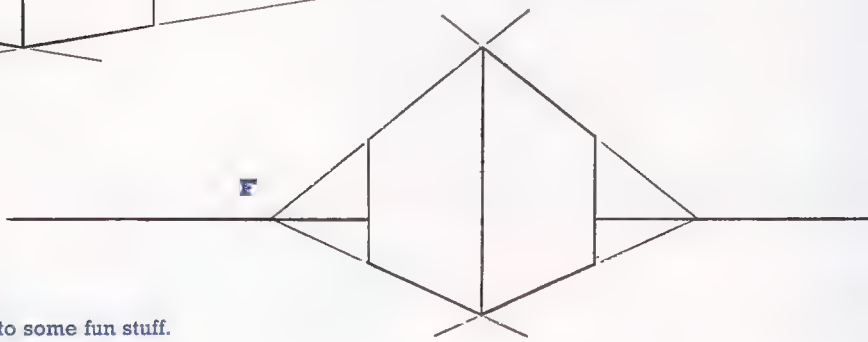


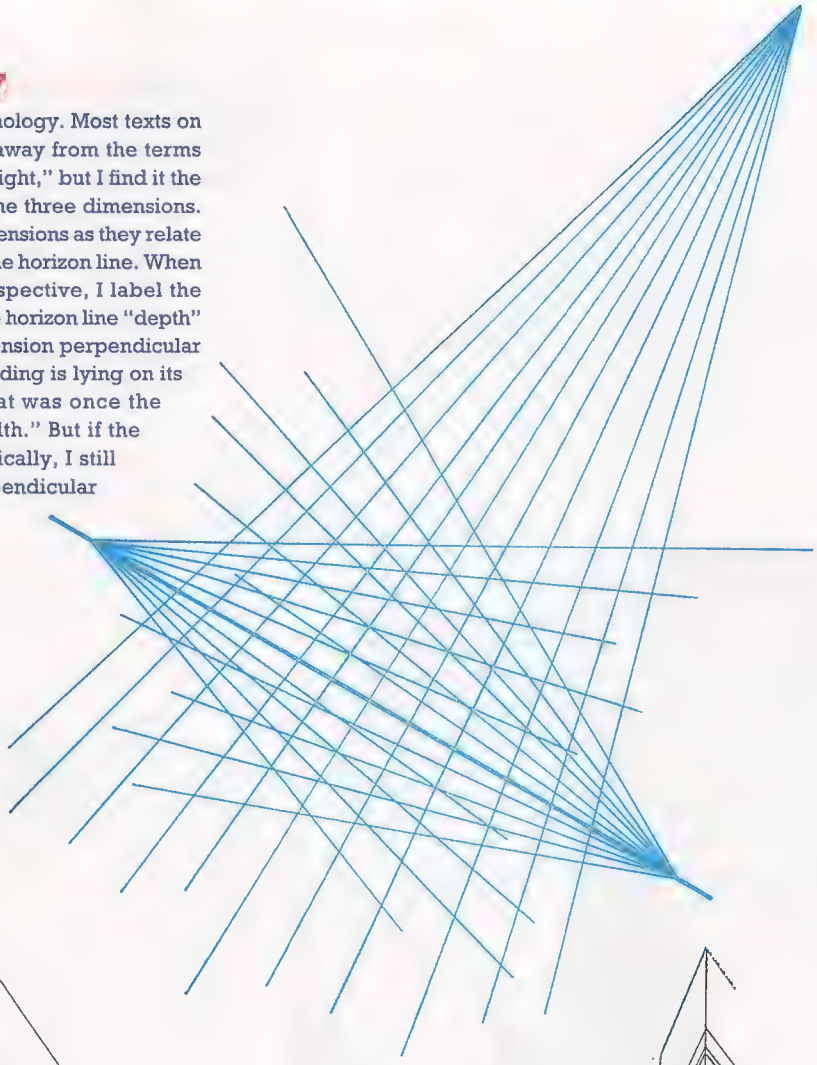
F

## FANTASTIC PERSPECTIVE

Enough cubes already. Let's get into some fun stuff. You'll be using perspective mostly on geometric shapes, like buildings. You'll notice that in two-point, the perspective lines of the Fantastic Four's old home lead to vanishing points and a horizon line off the page. If this happens when you're working on a drawing, just add a few pieces of scrap paper to extend your drawing surface and discard the scraps when you're done.

## WORD PLAY

A quick note about terminology. Most texts on perspective tend to shy away from the terms "width," "depth" and "height," but I find it the simplest way to identify the three dimensions. I'm only talking about dimensions as they relate to the camera plane and the horizon line. When dealing strictly with perspective, I label the dimensions oriented to the horizon line "depth" and "width" and the dimension perpendicular to it the "height." If a building is lying on its side on the ground, what was once the "height" is now the "width." But if the horizon line is tilted vertically, I still label the dimension perpendicular to it the "height."



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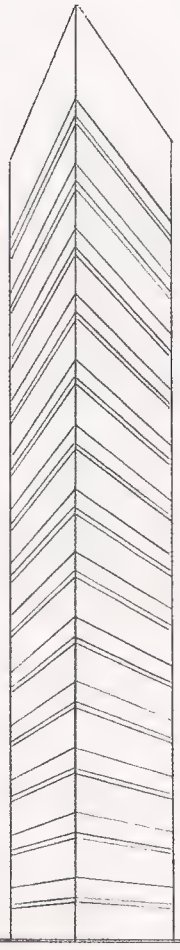

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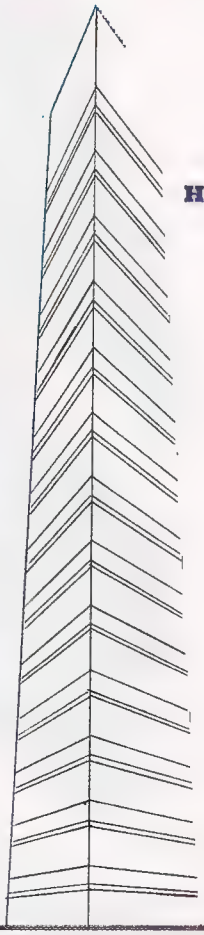


## THREE POINTS

Okay. Feeling comfortable with two-point perspective? Good. Then let's move on to three-point perspective. Three-point perspective is required when no dimension of an object is parallel to the camera plane; so the height now demands foreshortening. The technique is a little different, since the third vanishing point is not on the horizon line, but at a point perpendicular to it.

In figure G we have a building in two-point perspective that looks distorted. In reality, the sides of a building so tall couldn't remain parallel to each other, and need three-point perspective to look right (figure H).

## PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVE

Finally, here's a practical application, as Spidey swings high above the city. A high-angle view of the web-slinger as he does his thing always adds a ton of drama and scope. Often with three-point perspective, as seen here, all vanishing points fall outside the image area. (Of course, I could've just traced the background from an aerial photo of the city...but where's the fun in that?)

Hey, here's a trade tip for ya. At larger bookstores, you can find books of preprinted perspective grids over which you can use tracing paper, or you can slide the grids under your actual pages if you're using a light box. Although these grids won't help you know when, where and how to use perspective, you won't have to physically rule the lines out each time.

And that's about it. Three-point perspective is where we end. Unless you're Picasso, there's no such thing as four-point perspective. One significant variation I've missed, however, is curvilinear perspective, which was well covered by Brent Anderson back in *Wizard* #79—check it out. Now, I know all this may seem a bit confusing and daunting, but take it slow. None of this is too hard. Just keep things in perspective. (Sorry, I couldn't resist.) Now get out of here and get to work. Thanks for reading.

*Jim Calafiore is still working on his creator-owned project,* The Black. *Hey, what did you expect? It's only been a month.*

# Drawing BOARD

## Who needs the pros? This is the showcase for WIZARD READERS' ART

We get so much fantastic art for "Drawing Board," this month we decided to trek into the *Wizard* art vaults and treat you to some of the most beautiful art we've seen in years. Looking at this month's entries, it's clear that us Americans are falling behind—three out of four winners are international; only our boy Rush Humphrey from Bronx, N.Y. represents the U.S. of A. Still, maybe America is doing something right—our grand-prize-winning entry, by Andrew Sheppard of Scotland, is of good ol' Captain America. Well, wherever the art is from, we don't care, as long as it looks as good as this. All of our winners get some great goodies—why, Andrew Sheppard wins a fully painted, 15-inch-tall statue of the mighty Thor from Bowen Designs! Please keep your artwork comin'; we love it. Take care now.

THIS ONE CAUGHT OUR EYE

### GRAND-PRIZE WINNER

**EASY RIDER**

ANDREW SHEPPARD
Glasgow, SCOTLAND

### THE BOOTY

**BIG BAT-BABES**
RUSH HUMPHREY
Bronx, N.Y.

**CUTE BUT DEADLY**
JEREMY LEACH
Greymouth, NEW ZEALAND

**PAINTED HELLBOY**
LUIZ FERNANDO CAMPIELLO GERMANO
Lagosul, Brasília, BRAZIL

**HEY! BE IN WIZARD!**

**Want your art to appear in future issues of *Wizard*?** Think you've got what it takes? (Quality *and* originality count, y'know.) Hey, it worked for pros like Jeff Matsuda and Leinil Francis Yu, who went on to stardom! Then send your "Drawing Board" entries to:

SUBMIT

**"Drawing Board"**
**c/o Wizard Entertainment**
**151 Wells Avenue**
**Congers, NY 10920-2064**

**And follow these rules or else:** Use any form of unlined paper or posterboard (no larger than 8 inches by 11 1/4 inches) and any medium (oils, crayon, mustard, etc.—but not neon inks). Put your name, full address and TELEPHONE NUMBER on the back of your piece, and mail it flat to avoid damage. **You must also include a color photo of yourself.** All entries are non-returnable and become the property of Wizard Entertainment. Employees of Wizard Entertainment are the sole judges of the contests, and all decisions are final. Got it? All right, good luck!

WIZARD PRESENTS:

ART CONTEST

# The Magical World of Aria!

# PRIZES

**GRAND PRIZE (1):** One lucky lord or lady of Dannan will win an Aria Limited Edition archival print (limited to 1 in 50), copies of *Aria* #1-#2, and a copy of *Blanc et Noir* #1, all signed by *Aria* writer and co-creator Brian Holguin, and will also have his or her winning entry drawn by *Aria* artist Jay Anacleto!

**FIRST PRIZE (3):** Three almost-as-lucky regents will win an Aria Limited Edition archival print (limited to 1 in 50) plus copies of *Aria* #1-#2, all signed by Brian Holguin.

**Let your fantasy begin!** Here's how to win the treasure...all you gotta do is draw the biggest and baddest fantasy-style hero or heroine. Get out your pens and pencils and create a hero fit to rule Aria! We'll choose the most creative and cool-looking entries as the winners. And not only will you win great prizes, you'll also see your entry in an upcoming issue of this very magazine!

Keep these things in mind as you start drawing: Submissions can be on any form of unlined paper or posterboard and can be in any medium (oils, crayon, marker, etc.). Neon inks will not print. Artwork must not be larger than 8"x 11 1/4". Do not fold, bend or roll artwork. Mail flat. Also be sure to include two photos of yourself with the entry. Each photo (no Polaroids, please) should include your full name, date of birth, telephone number and address on the back.

**THIS CONTEST IS SPONSORED BY AVALON STUDIOS. THANKS FOR THE GOODIES, GUYS!**

## THE LAW OF THE DARK LORD

No purchase necessary. Contest is open to anyone except employees of Wizard Entertainment, Avalon Studios, their immediate families and people who don't believe in fantasies. Print your name, date of birth, address, city, state, zip and telephone number with area code on the official entry form or a 3-by-5-inch index card, and attach the form or card to your entry. Enter as many times as you like. Mail each entry separately to: "The Magical World of Aria!" Art Contest, c/o Wizard Entertainment, P.O. Box 118, Congers, NY 10920-0118. No mechanical reproductions of completed forms are accepted, but you can photocopy the entry form before filling it out if you don't want to mess up your magazine. All entries and all rights thereto become property of Wizard Entertainment and none will be returned. All taxes (federal, state and local, if any) will be the responsibility of the prize winners. Prizes are awarded in the names of the contest winners and are not transferable. Offer void where prohibited, regulated or restricted by law in a manner inconsistent with the purposes and rules hereof. All entries must be received at contest headquarters by September 30, 1999. Wizard Entertainment is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected or mutilated entries. Winners will be selected based on originality and creativity by Wizard Entertainment. Odds of winning will be determined by the number of valid entries received prior to the closing date of the contest. If an entrant, having been declared as a winner, does not accept the prize or if either the prize or prize notification is undeliverable, that person is a schmoe, and another entry will be selected. In the event that a prize is not available or it becomes impossible for the sponsor to award the prize which has been designated, the sponsor retains the right to substitute a prize or product of equal value to the winner. Determination of whether a prize or product is of equal value is in the sole discretion of the sponsor. Winning entries will be selected on or about October 15, 1999.

For a list of winners, available after October 15,1999 send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: "The Magical World of Aria!" Art Contest Winners List, c/o Wizard Entertainment, P.O. Box 118, Congers, NY 10920-0118.

ENTER NOW!

Fill this out, attach your entry and photos and put it all in an envelope. Send the bad boy to:

**"The Magical World of Aria!" Art Contest**
**c/o Wizard Entertainment**
**P.O. Box 118**
**Congers, NY 10920-0118**

## "The Magical World of Aria!" Art Contest Entry Form

**CONTEST DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 30, 1999!**

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (with area code) _____ E-mail Address _____

**DID YOU ATTACH YOUR ENTRY AND PHOTOS?**

# TOY CHEST

# SPAWN MANIA!

Happy anniversary to Toddy! It's been five years since Todd McFarlane started making his Spawnarific Spawn action figures. And after over 100 different Spawn toys (and quite a few licensed toys like Austin Powers and The X-Files) McFarlane is *still* churning out a few lines of Spawn figures every year with no signs of letting up. And they just keep gettin' better! Want proof? Check out these two assortments that look to continue the McFarlane tradition this year.

## SPAWN DARK AGES 2

The 14th round of Spawn figures is actually a sequel that takes Spawn back to medieval times. **Dark Ages 2** features a whole host of fantasy-inspired creatures with a distinct Spawn flavor—Don't be lookin' for no sissy water fairies or tree sprites in this toy line! Check out the **Scarlet Edge**, **Viper King**, the **Necromancer**, **Iguanus** and **Tuskadon**, **Spawn the Black Heart**, and **Tormentor** this August at a fine toy shop near you.

**MEDIEVAL TIMES** Nah, you won't find any $19.95 dinner specials here–just really kick-ass action figures like Spawn the Black Heart.

**BY TOM PALMER JR.**

Cyborg monkeys...A potential Jar Jar death trap...and a big robot!!

**FULLY ARMED** They don't come much sicker than the Dark Ages 2's Viper King.

**SEEING RED** The Dark Ages ain't so dark with characters like Scarlet Edge and Necromancer (inset).

**TOUCH MY MONKEY** Animals (even a gorilla!) get the full Spawny Guy treatment this fall in McFarlane's 15th series: Techno-Spawn.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF McFARLANE TOYS

# TECHNO-SPAWN

Spawn's going clubbing this fall. Well...not exactly.

The 15th series of Spawn figures will be subtitled Techno-Spawn and will feature a new twist on the traditional Spawn figures. Where previous lines included characters from McFarlane's *Spawn* comic (or funky lookin' variations of 'em), Techno-Spawn will feature all sorts of animals with all sorts of crazy robot parts and stuff. What kinda animals? How 'bout a gator, an ostrich, a gorilla, a warthog and a rhino? And just for good measure, McFarlane's tossing in the obligatory Spawn figure. Of course, all these figures will have really cool-sounding Spawn-type names like Gary the Gruesome Gator or Warthoggg by the time they hit toy stores this fall.

# STAR WARS MANIA!

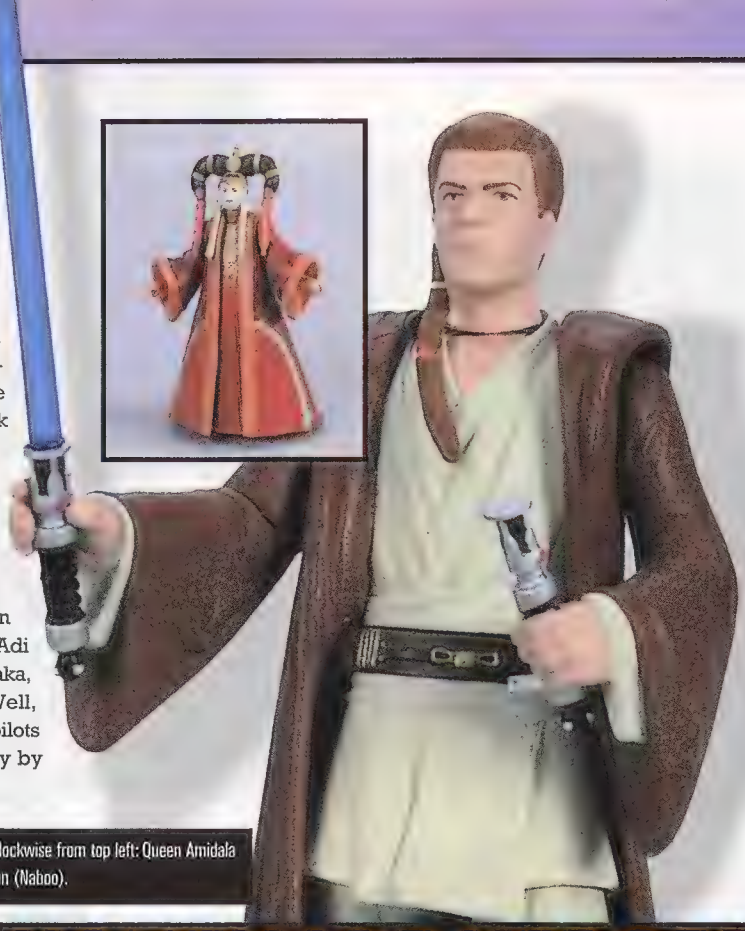
Can they *possibly* make any more **Star Wars** toys? You bet your Watto, pal!

Not satisfied with Hasbro's original versions of some of the "**Episode I**" heavies? Well, run on out to your local toy store right now (go ahead, we'll wait) and pick up **Obi-Wan Kenobi** (Naboo), **Qui-Gon Jinn** (Naboo), **Queen Amidala** (Coruscant) and **Darth Maul** (Tatooine). They all feature brand-new head sculpts and neat li'l accessories like unlit lightsaber hilts. And don't forget to pick up the Mos Espa Encounter Cinema Scene 3-Pack, with special Sebulba, Jar Jar Binks and Anakin Skywalker figures.

Want more? Okey-day!

This fall, Hasbro will release a nifty blue hologram version of robed bad-dude Darth Sidious and a Jedi-braid-sportin' Anakin Skywalker along with Jedi Council chick Adi Gallia, Naboo Royal Guard and Captain Panaka, a Naboo foot soldier. Still not satisfied? Well, word has it that quite a few more podracer pilots and Jedi Council members are on the way by year's end. Wahoo!





**STAR CAPADE** The Star Wars onslaught continues! Clockwise from top left: Queen Amidala (Coruscant), Obi-Wan Kenobi (Naboo) and Qui-Gon Jinn (Naboo).

ALL STAR WARS PHOTOS COURTESY OF HASBRO. IRON GIANT PHOTO COURTESY OF TRENDMASTERS.

# HOMEMADE HEROES OF THE MONTH

THE BEST OF FAN-MADE ACTION FIGURES

## X-MEN

**Matt Sczepanski, Cordova, Tenn.**

Man, even second-string X-Men look cool! Here's how Matt made this helping of mutant toys: Colossus was originally a Trevor Fitzroy body with a Colossus head, Havok used to be Meanstreak, and Dazzler was smushed together from Psylocke and the White Queen. For all his hard work, Matt takes home:

**Abe Sapian and Magneto mini-bust prototypes signed by Randy Bowen. Thanks to Bowen Designs for sponsoring this month's contest.**

**Hey!**

Do you want in on the fun? To enter the homemade figure contest, send at least TWO well-lit, clear, color photographs (No Polaroids, and put 'em in cool or funny poses!), along with your name, address, a DETAILED DESCRIPTION of how you created your figure, your full phone number (including area code) and even e-mail address to:

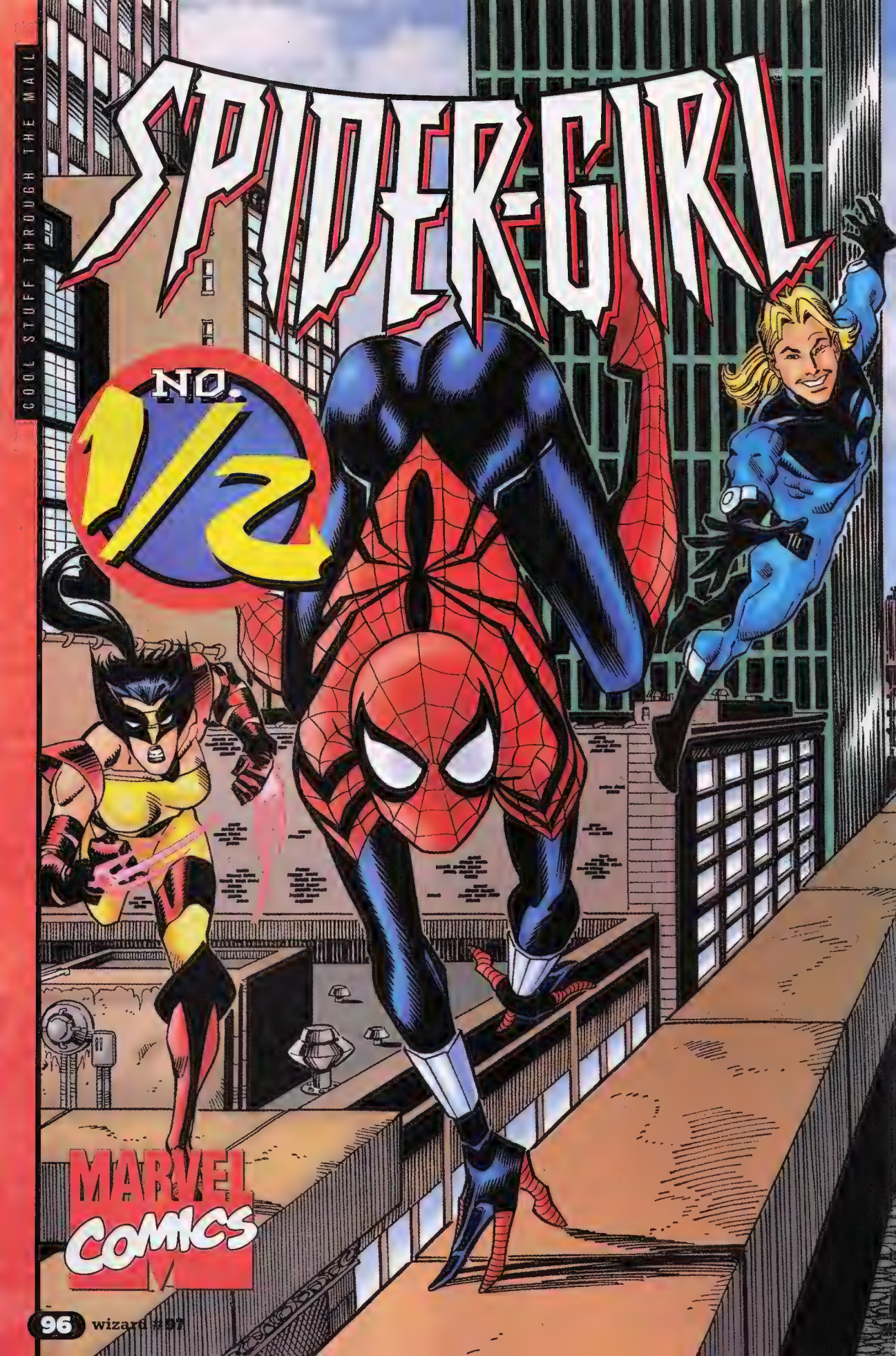
**HOMEMADE HEROES**
**c/o Wizard Entertainment**
**P.O. Box 118**
**Congers, NY 10920-0118**

**WAR WARES** Your collection won't be complete without Jedi Council babe Adi Gallia. And don't forget to buy the Mos Espa Encounter Cinema Scene 3-Pack, with nifty Sebulba, Jar Jar Binks and Anakin Skywalker figures.

## ROBOT HOEDOWN

It's the heartwarming story of a young boy and a big honkin' giant robot. It's **"Iron Giant,"** one of this summer's coolest animated treats and star of a full toy line from Trendmasters. In fact, this toy line's so full that there's a Giant toy for every taste. Look for electronic figures that respond to each other, a wired remote-control Giant, and even a Giant that eats stuff! Yeah! As if that weren't enough, these toys will range in size from a regular 7-inch figure to a mammoth 20-inch toy that comes with miniature junk for the Giant to chow down on. All these funky Giant toys should hit stores in July just in time for the movie's August release.

**IRON MAN** Big robots equal big robot toys like the Build and Battle Iron Giant.


SPIDER-GIRL
NO. 1/2
MARVEL COMICS

# SPIDER-GIRL #½ OFFER

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**Fill out the coupon! Now! Don't delay!**

### LEGAL WEB LINES

No reproductions of this coupon will be accepted. This coupon must be sent in the accompanying envelope. With this coupon, you can order two comics. You may put additional coupons in the same envelope. Remit by check or money order only. Canadian orders remit $4 per copy, other foreign orders remit $6 per copy. All payment must be in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank. Make all checks payable to Wizard Entertainment. Offer good only while supply lasts. Please allow eight to 12 weeks from date of expiration for delivery. Changes of address will not be forwarded unless Wizard Entertainment is notified in writing by October 22, 1999.

**THIS OFFER EXPIRES OCTOBER 22, 1999**

# stuff

## COMIC BOOK MERCHANDISE YOU CAN BUY...

By David Borak and the *Wizard* Staff

**Who among us doesn't like stuff? Whether it's Metamorpho's Chemistry Set, Swamp Thing's Dehumidifier or a One-Way Ticket to the New Universe, we're all suckers for comic-related merchandise. Each month, *Wizard* will strive to show you the latest and super-neatest in comic book statues, posters, pins, magnets, shirts and other goodies. In short, if it's cool, and if it's stuff, you'll find it here.**

**BOX LUNCH** Let Milk & Cheese keep your food fresh.

## DARK HORSE OUT TO LUNCH

Dark Horse Comics will release three new lunch boxes, all made of sturdy metal and priced at $19.95. The Hellboy Lunch Box comes with a full-color lithograph printing of Mike Mignola's Hellboy. The Bettie Page Lunch Box features a retro, Technicolor photograph of Bettie by Bunny Yeager. Finally, the Milk & Cheese Lunch Box includes a bonus Milk & Cheese postcard! Each lunch box is 8" by 7" by 3"; all are on sale October 27 except the Milk & Cheese box, which goes on sale November 10.

**SING WITH SPIDEY** You can play the Spidey cartoon theme song.

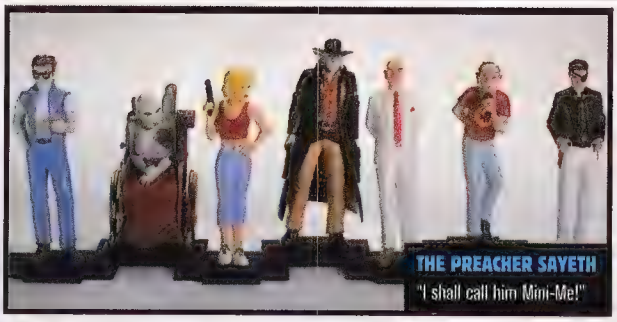
## SIX-STRING SPIDEY

The Web-Slinger One Guitar from Marvel Comics and Gibson Guitar features a solid mahogany body and neck, an ebony fingerboard and a single humbucking pickup. You'll also get a limited set of Spider-Man guitar picks, a Spidey guitar strap, a hard-shell case and a certificate of authenticity. Only 150 editions of Web-Slinger One ($3,250) will be made, 75 of which will come hand-signed by Spidey co-creator Stan Lee (signed guitars are $3,500). Find it in music shops now, or call the Web-Slinger One Hotline at (877) 348-4827. You'll also have a chance to win one in a contest appearing in this July's Marvel books.

**CUTE WILDCAT** Have gun, will shapeshift.

## VOODOO CHILD

WildStorm presents the most seductive member of the Wildcats team in cold-cast porcelain with the Voodoo Statue ($139.95). Sculpted by Tim Bruckner, Voodoo is 9 1/2" high, 4 1/5" wide and 4 1/2" deep with a gun in hand and one arm that's beginning to metamorphose. Voodoo comes with a certificate of authenticity and will be available December 15.



**THE PREACHER SAYETH** "I shall call him Mini-Me!"

## PRAY FOR THESE PVCS

Straight from the pages of the popular Vertigo title, DC Comics presents the Preacher PVC Set ($39.95). The set features Jesse Custer, Tulip, Cassidy, Herr Starr, the Saint of Killers, Gran'ma, and, of course, Arseface. With pieces ranging from 3" to 4 1/2" high, the Preacher PVC Set comes fully painted and displayed in a four-color window box. Look for it in stores December 15.

# HOT STUFF!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

## SURFIN' SAFARI

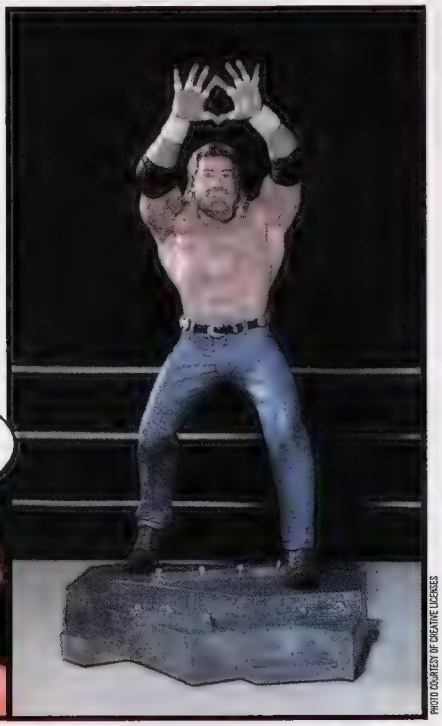
This August, Legends in 3 Dimensions brings you the ultimate in intergalactic statues with the Silver Surfer Resin Bust ($159). The bust stands a whopping 9" tall and features the shiny torso and head of the herald of Galactus. Sculpted by Greg Aronowitz, the bust comes fully painted and packaged in a full-color box featuring art by Tim Flattery. Limited to just 2,000 units, it comes with a signed and numbered certificate of authenticity this August. The Power Cosmic not included.

**COSMIC AWARENESS** This bust's eyes can penetrate to the very bottom of your soul.

**IT'S YOUR VOLLEY** Darkseid wants to play games with your planet next.

## SCULPTING IN DIAMOND

Creative Licenses and World Championship Wrestling present the first sculpture of wrestling superstar Diamond Dallas Page. The Diamond Dallas Page Cold-Cast Porcelain Sculpture ($95) stands 10" tall and features DDP rejoicing after finishing off his opponent with his signature move, the "Diamond Cutter." Hand-painted, this statue is limited to 5,000 pieces worldwide and comes with a certificate of authenticity. Look for it in August.



**FEEL THE BANG** DDP wants you to pull his tongue and buy his statue.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE LICENSES

## DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

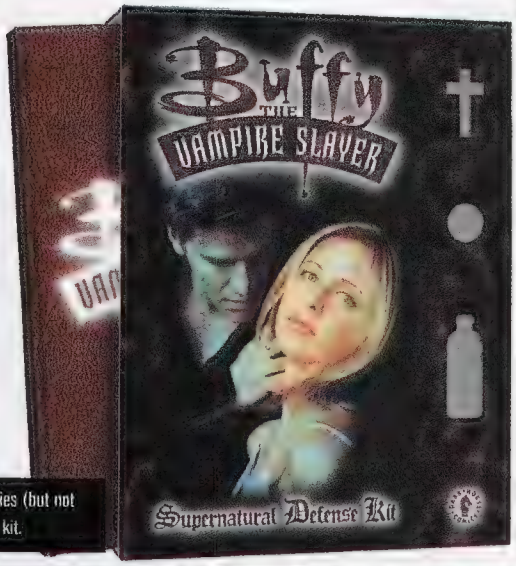
DC Comics brings you a statue of the most villainous being in the DC Universe, Darkseid! The Darkseid Statue ($195) is sculpted by William Paquet, based on designs by Steve Rude, and shows the Lord of Apokolips holding the world in hand. He measures 12" high, 7" wide and 4 1/2" deep and stands on a sculpted base made of the screaming faces of his enemies. Ol' Ugly comes with a certificate of authenticity and will be available in December.

# stuff

## BUFFY'S REVENGE

Dark Horse brings you the ultimate item for Buffy fans with the Buffy the Vampire Slayer Supernatural Defense Kit ($19.95). This slipcased package comes with a deluxe hardcover book that is thread-sewn on artpaper stock. The story is an expansion of "The Final Cut" story from *Buffy* #8 with new pages added. The kit also comes with Buffy's trademark gold-colored cross, a traditional Claddagh ring, and a vial of "holy" water with silver flakes suspended in fluid!

All of these items can be seen through die-cut windows in the slipcase, which features photo art of Sarah Michelle Gellar (she plays Buffy, of course, if you didn't know) and that Angel guy, David Boreanaz. Look for it November 17.




**GET BUFF** Fend off nasties (but not chicks) with this defense kit.

**DANCE WITH THE DEVIL** Pale moonlight or not, Harley's always up for a spin.

## BEAUTIFUL HARLEY

Everybody's favorite misguided sidekick has been immortalized in the Batman: Harley Quinn Poster ($6.95) from DC Comics. This 22"-by-34" full-color poster by Alex Ross, which reproduces Ross' painted cover to the prestige book *Batman: Harley Quinn*, features Harley dancing in the arms of her "puddin'," the Joker. Look for it this August.

## WATCH THAT HELLBOY

It's time to pick up the new Hellboy Watch ($49.95) from Dark Horse Comics. The watch features a graphic of Hellboy by Mike Mignola next to a miniature, water-resistant dial. It's PNP plated with brass casing and a black leather band, and comes in a matte-black wood box with color printing by Mignola on the outside. This deluxe timepiece is limited to just 2,000 pieces and comes with an engraved edition number on the back and a metallic certificate of authenticity. Look for it October 20.

**TWO FACE** One tells time, the other's just plain ugly.

## DAWN TURNS 10

To celebrate Dawn's 10th anniversary, check out the Dawn 2000 Calendar ($14.95), which features seven fan-favorite images of Dawn, plus six new drawings by Joseph Michael Linsner on a 13-month, 12"-by-12" wall calendar. Next, look for the 24"-by-36" Dawn 10th Anniversary Poster ($5.95) that has every single cover that Dawn has every appeared on in one design (over 50 covers!) Finally, there's the Dawn Coffee Mug ($9.95), which features a panoramic Dawn image by Linsner on a dishwasher-safe, stoneware mug. All these items ship in August to a comic shop near you.

**A NEW DAWN** Wake up every day with Dawn!

**Check your local stores for availability of all these funky fresh products. Or ask your friendly neighborhood comic store to special order 'em for ya!**

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# video STUFF

By Matthew Danish and the *Wizard* Staff



**Want more tidbits from this year's Electronics Entertainment Expo? *Wizard* got its hands on tons o' games. Here are some game capsules some comic fans will be interested in...**

## CATWOMAN GOES SOLO

Me-ow! Catwoman, the sexiest babe in comics, finally gets her own video game this July on Nintendo's Game Boy Color system. In a storyline that promises to include many characters and situations familiar to the slinky feline *femme*'s comic book fans, players must guide Catwoman on a quest to recover a powerful magical crystal skull that the villainous Ra's Al Ghul plans to use in a plot to take over the world. Commissioned by Ghul's daughter Talia to steal the skull, Catwoman moves through this side-scroller in several search sequences and hand-to-hand fights including a battle with Cyber Kat, a renegade scientist outfitted in an armored exoskeleton suit. Sure, all this action sounds cool, but will that other famous denizen of Gotham City make an appearance in the game? A spokesperson from manufacturer Kemco wouldn't confirm it, but word has it that Batman himself will indeed make a surprise cameo.

## REVOLT

Sick and tired of racing remote control cars around mom's living room table and getting your tires stuck in a giant hairball? Then rev up your engines for Acclaim's *ReVolt* this August. This PlayStation game features 28 different remote control-style cars to race around 14 different residential areas like supermarkets, each with all sorts of wacky obstacles like giant basketballs to navigate around. The vehicles in *ReVolt* respond like real remote control cars and can even be tried out in a special stunt track equipped with special jumps and tricks. Throw in power-ups, tournament races and a driver's eye viewpoint and you've got an excellent addition to the PlayStation racing library.

**CRAZY CARS** It's remote control mayhem in *ReVolt*.

## MORTAL KOMBAT: SPECIAL FORCES

Think of it as "Mortal Kombat: Episode 1."

This fall, Midway is offering up *Mortal Kombat: Special Forces*, a special prequel that promises to reveal some of the background behind the combat series' popular characters. Players can select from either Jax or Sonya Blade and embark on a first person exploration and fighting game that will feature many of the Mortal Kombat mainstays. Armed with guns, swords and good ol' bare fists, Jax and Sonya trek into environments that graduate from realistic to supernatural. You can even hop on jet skis, desert vehicles and snowboards! Look for *Mortal Kombat: Special Forces* on both N64 and PlayStation consoles.

**SHE NEEDED THE MONEY!** Catwoman's commissioned by Ra's Al Ghul to steal a skull.

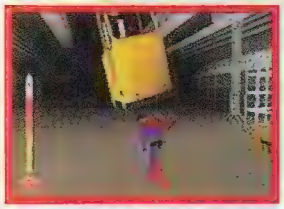
## E3 NEWS BITES

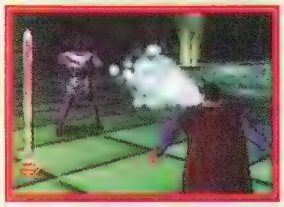
Activision previewed demos for both Spider-Man and X-Men PlayStation games slated for spring 2000. Spidey was shown in a lush 3D environment shooting webs and clinging to buildings...Blue Byte software announced *Quest of the Amazons*, a PC game available this fall featuring a race of violent female warriors. Hubba hubba!... Nintendo announced the Rear Seat Entertainment System, a combination N64, VCR and stereo that fits between the two front seats of any mini-van and allows backseat passengers to play their favorite N64 games. The system will set you back $1499! ■

**UP AHEAD**

Bodyslam 'em...Outsmart 'em...Run 'em down...Just plain beat 'em up!

THE NEW SUPERMAN ADVENTURES™





- All the super powers — flight, heat vision, super breath, super-strength, super speed and x-ray vision.
- Pick up and use any object as a weapon.
- Battle on land, underwater and in the sky against Metallo, The Parasite, Darkseid and Lex Luthor's minions as you attempt to save the city from doom.
- 14 alternating indoor / outdoor levels.
- Up to 4 players simultaneously, 2 multiplayer modes.
- Watch "The New Superman Adventures" on the Kids' WB!

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NINTENDO 64

GAME BOY

TITUS

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2000

# SUPERMAN™ IN A NEW DIMENSION

STORY

The last interview before Superman's disappearance.

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Planet

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Daily Planet R

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uper strength, super speed ath, Superman is predicted y to conquer Lex Luthor's er and bring Lois Lane and n back to Metropolis safely. perman has decided to enter r in search of Lois and erman believes that once on

# WWF ATTITUDE

**MANUFACTURER:** Acclaim
**PLATFORM:** PlayStation and Nintendo 64
**SUGGESTED RETAIL:** $45.95, June 1999

Wrestling's all about attitude, and the colorful personalities of the WWF are no exception.

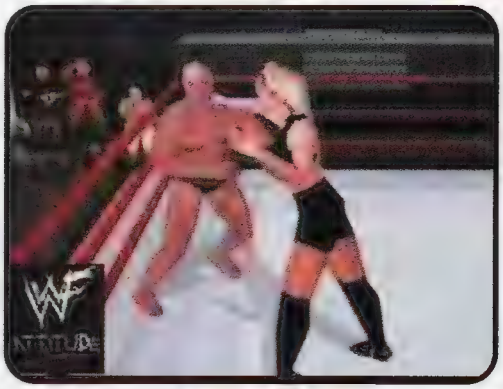
Acclaim's latest rasslin' game *WWF: Attitude* looks to be one of the most exciting wrestling games yet, with entrance themes and signature moves of some of the WWF's biggest superstars—everyone from Stone Cold Steve Austin, the Rock and Undertaker to Mankind, Kane and Road Dogg. How could you go wrong?

As if playing with the heavyweights wasn't enough, *Attitude* includes a dramatically enhanced customization mode that allows you to create your own grappler. Every little detail's controllable in this game, from costumes and masks right on down to facial features. And when you find that right combination you can save your results on a memory card.

You can throw down in all sorts of matches, from tag team bouts to lumberjack matches and even a battle royale. *Attitude* also includes a pay-per-view creation feature that lets you create an eight-match wrestling event with gimmick matches, title belts and a custom storyline. You can even add in your custom wrestlers and have them take on the big guys.

Players have more than 400 moves to choose from and can make things interesting by snagging foreign objects like tables and chairs—you can even grab the timekeeper's bell and toss it around at your opponents. With smooth gameplay, a multitude of rasslers and a plethora of moves, *Attitude* should prove to be loads of fun. ■

**TRY IT...** Like *WCW Revenge* or *WWF Warzone*? Then bust some heads and pick up *WWF Attitude*.



**THAT'S GOTTA HURT** We hope to never, EVER get into a situation where guys like Undertaker can powerbomb us into pavement.

# SONIC ADVENTURE

**MANUFACTURER:** Sega
**PLATFORM:** Dreamcast
**SUGGESTED RETAIL:** $44.95, October 1999

The Hedgehog is back!

*Sonic Adventure* updates Sega's classic hyper-kinetic star and throws him into a series of three-dimensional worlds that fly by at fantastic speeds—the Dreamcast graphics must be seen to be believed! There are six characters to choose from this time around: Supersonic the Hedgehog, Tails the Fox, Amy Hedgehog, Knuckles the Echidna (an anteater), Big the Cat and E102r, a C3PO-like robot. Most of the gameplay is based around Station Square, a geographic hub where Sonic can interact with other characters, solve puzzles and find hidden level entrances to begin each stage. Once you're on a stage, you maneuver along gravity defying tracks, collecting rings and rocketing off launch pads that propel Sonic at super-speeds.

In addition to the normal gameplay, *Sonic Adventure* features puzzle-like subgames, including pinball and skiing segments. The most interesting subgame is a Pokemon-esque pet-hatching simulation that takes place in Chaos Gardens. By carefully placing Chaos eggs found in other levels, Sonic can incubate and hatch baby Chaos monsters.

**TRY IT...** Remember all those Sonic the Hedgehog games from a couple years ago? Wanna relive some of that magic? Pick up *Sonic Adventure*!

The basic gameplay in *Sonic Adventure* is essentially the same as earlier installments in Sega's classic series—Sonic still does his signature spins, jumps and super-dashes. Part nostalgia trip and part fast-paced adventure, *Sonic Adventure* is sure to be a smooth, challenging game. ■

**SONIC BOOM** Yep, the world's fastest (and bluest) hedgehog is back in what looks to be his most harried adventure yet.

MORE→

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# SHAO LIN

**MANUFACTURER:** THQ
**PLATFORM:** PlayStation
**SUGGESTED RETAIL:** $39.95, August 1999

It's almost like being in a kung-fu movie.

Welcome to *Shao Lin*, a game that combines RPG-style interludes with action-packed fighting sequences. Amid beautiful Chinese temple landscapes and tough Hong Kong cityscapes, players must battle hordes of enemies by using one of six ancient martial arts styles: Drunken Chinese Boxing, Tai Chi, Jeet Kun Do, Eight Extremities Fist, Hung Gar and Shao Lin Kung Fu.

In story mode, players begin by choosing a male or female child protagonist and make various crucial life decisions while watching their character grow into an adult fighter. As the character evolves, his physical appearance changes and he adopts more and more fighting techniques. Early stages set the young orphan on a quest to discover his parents, while in adulthood the hero faces up to 20 Hong Kong bad guys.

The fighting occurs in crisp, real time sequences with stunningly realistic martial arts kicks, punches and flips. *Shao Lin* comes with a versus mode allowing up to eight fighters to battle in a simultaneous throw-down. There are also school battles that match members of rival schools against each other in several different ways: two on two, team modes of four on four and even an individual wild fight mode with eight separate fighters in a free-for-all.

**TRY IT...** If you like *Tekken 3* or *Battle Arena Toshinden*, you'll love this one.

With beautiful artwork directed by renowned anime artist Hirotoshi Sano, best known for "Gundam 0083," "Bounty Dog" and "Vision of Escaflowne," and movie-quality music and sound effects, *Shao Lin* offers a unique fighting experience for fans of fighting games and Kung Fu movies. ■

**KICK IT** There's Drunken Chinese Boxing. DRUNKEN CHINESE BOXING! What more do you want?!

# SPEED DEVILS

**MANUFACTURER:** Ubi Soft
**PLATFORM:** Dreamcast
**SUGGESTED RETAIL:** $39.99, fall 1999

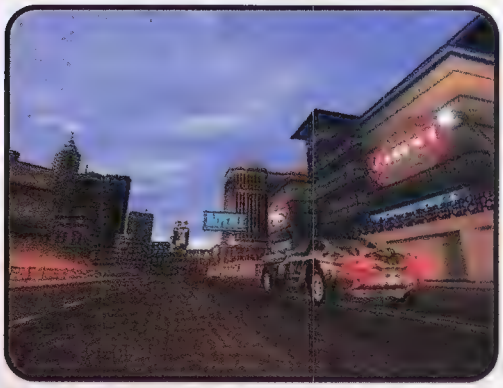
Feel the need for speed!

*Speed Devils* is one of Ubi Soft's three new racing titles, along with *Monaco Grand Prix* and *Redline Racer*, that look to take full advantage of the Dreamcasts's remarkable abilities. The game features 12 main cars, each equipped with radar capabilities and a high-octane speed booster that allows a temporary extra burst of speed. Players can maneuver around several North American settings, including a Hollywood track, the Louisiana area, a desert area, a Mexican landscape and a race through a California earthquake. There are even appearances by a T-Rex and King Kong!

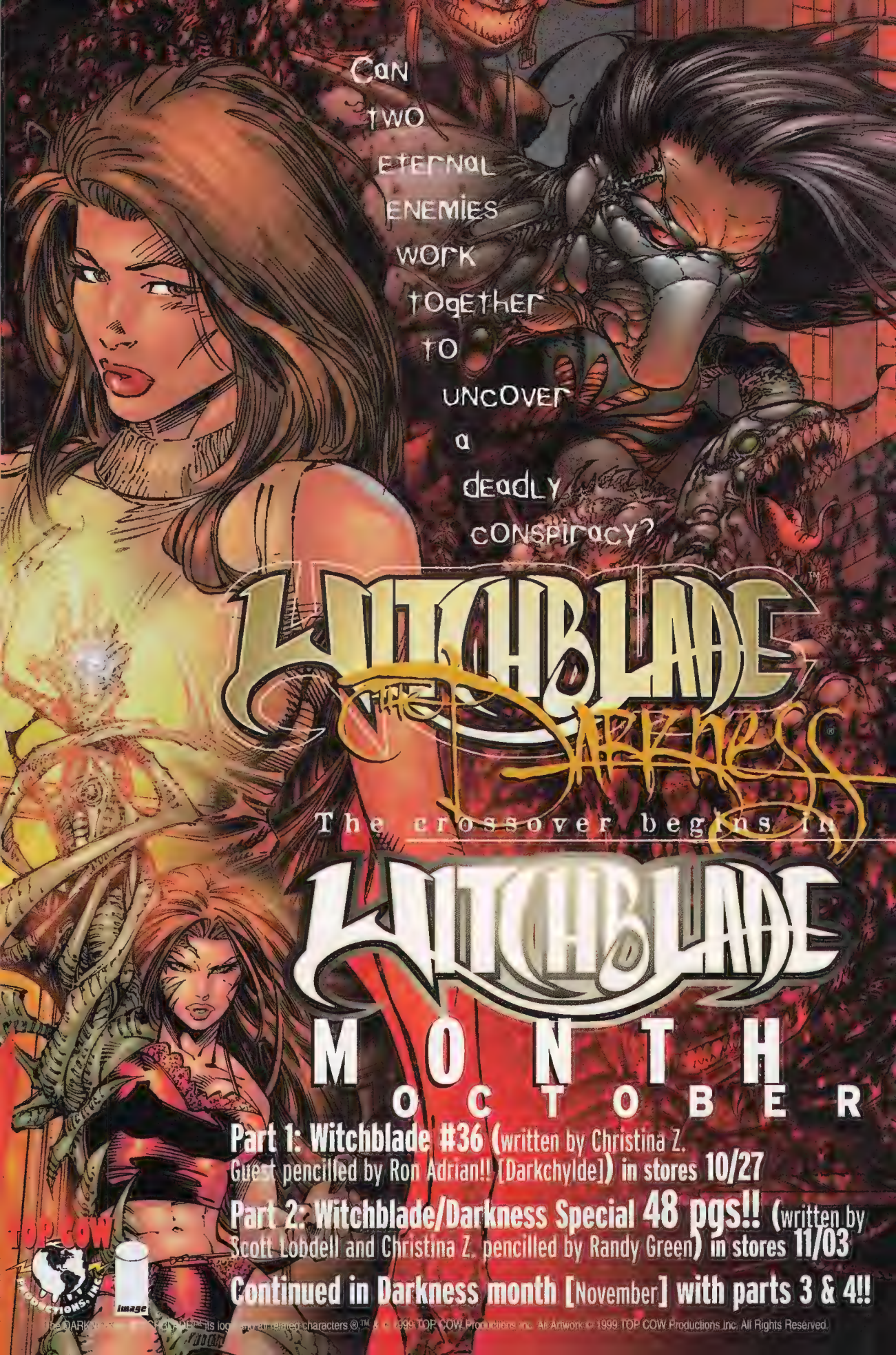
The cars in this game are rendered seamlessly, no doubt due to the Dreamcast's excellent graphic capabilities, and the game play is extremely fast. In addition, all of the tracks are very addictive and promise hours and hours of fun. *Speed Devils* is compatible with the Dreamcast's VMU (Visual Memory Unit) memory card and allows players to accumulate money, buy and sell cars and win trophies. You can also place bets on races and use the cash for repairs, custom paint jobs and new components to supe up your car. The game also includes '50s- and '60s-style stock and race cars as well as real-life damage and an indestructibility option.

**TRY IT...** Games like *Gran Turismo* or *Ridge Racer 4* too slow for ya? Grab *Speed Devils*!

While *Speed Devils* has a lot of realistic action, the game has a unique cartoon feel. If you're looking for a different take on racing games, be sure to check out *Speed Devils*. ■



**TRACK RECORD** Forget about racking up some points–you can race through Hollywood and a California earthquake! Plus a T-Rex and King Kong!!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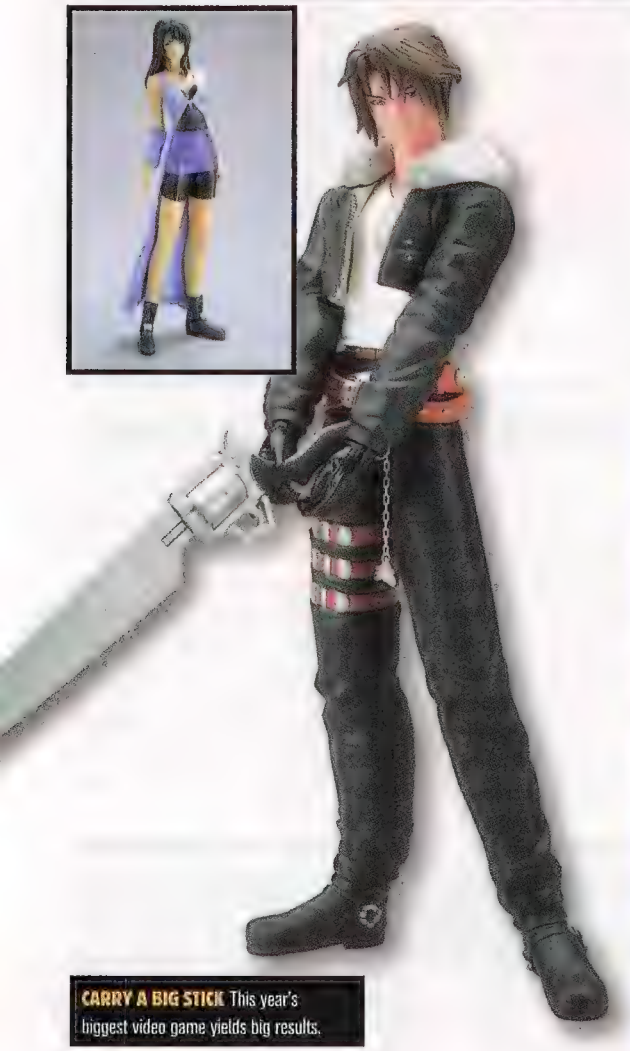
# manga MANIA!

## COOL JAPANESE COMIC AND ANIMATION STUFF YOU'LL WANT TO BUY...

**Manga, anime, action figures, posters or statues—if it's cool and it originates in Japan, here's where you'll find it. But before you go off half-cocked, memorize the ground rules: Unless otherwise noted, these are August-shipping products. Oh, and all manga comics are in black and white unless we say they ain't. Got it? All righty—time to check out this month's imported loot!**

BY TOM ROOT



**CARRY A BIG STICK** This year's biggest video game yields big results.

## FINAL VINYL

Get ready for *Final Fantasy VIII* overload, kiddies. The sequel to the gigantically popular *FF VII* promises to make its predecessor look like *Super Breakout* by comparison. A slew of tie-in merchandise is on the way, of course, but nothing quite as cool as these 1/6-scale vinyl statues of *FF VIII* stars Squall Leonhart and Rinoa Heartilly. They're $40 apiece, they're from the friendly folks at Palisades Marketing and they're from the year's biggest video game. What more do you need out of life?

## FUNNY BUNNY

That's one wide-ass rabbit. It ain't Bugs Bunny, and it sure ain't Pikachu. It's the big, cute and cuddly Panku! This month sees the debut issue of the manga series *Panku Ponk*, the tales of lovable pet bunny Panku and his owner Bonnie. Panku means well, loves to play and obviously loves to chow the hell down, but he sure does get into some crazy trouble. What kind of crazy trouble? We'd tell you, but then Panku might eat us. This new 32-page title's served up by Studio Ironcat, and you can gobble it down for a mere $2.95. Every fat (they have to be, to fit in that big bunny) issue of *Panku Ponk* will contain stories in both English and the mother tongue, Japanese. Practice your bilingual skills.

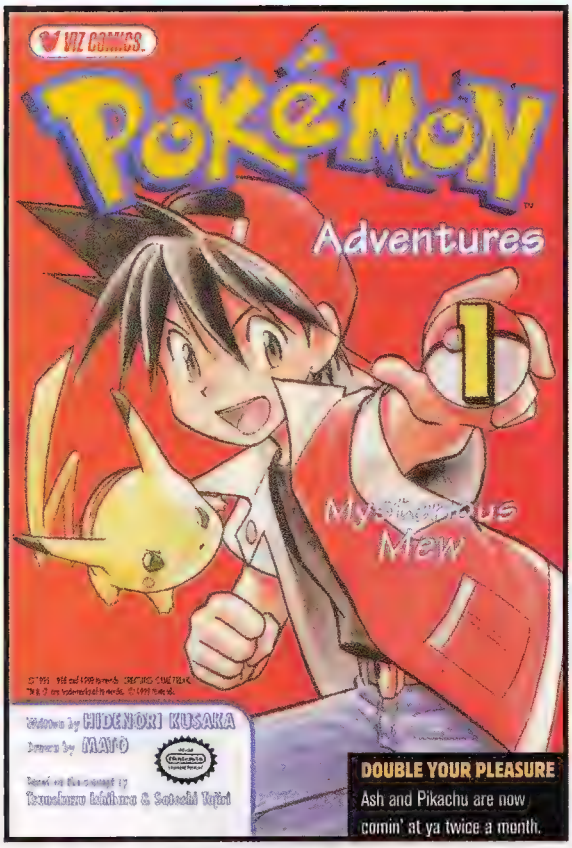
**SUPER-SIZE IT** Panku hopes you'll eat a hamburger and buy his comic book.

# manga MANIA!

## AI CARAMBA

What happens when your magical girlfriend who lives in your VCR disappears? You enter the Video World and go after her, of course! That's what happens when Yota Moteuchi's mystifying love interest, Ai, gets reclaimed by her creator, the ruthless Rolex. It's 60 minutes of anime mayhem as "Video Girl Ai: [Ai, Love & Sadness]," the final volume in the series, hits U.S. shores thanks to Viz Communications. Get it dubbed for $24.98 or subtitled for five bucks more. Ai-ya!

**SAD AND LONELY** Do you have what it takes to cheer this girl up?




**DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE** Ash and Pikachu are now comin' at ya twice a month.

## PIKA PIKA! CHU CHU!

What's better than Pokémon? Twice the Pokémon! In addition to the ongoing *Pokémon* series, Viz Comics is printing a second manga series, *Pokémon Adventures*, starting in September. The first volume is 48 pages, 7 3/4 by 10 1/2 inches and costs $5.95. As for the first series, Viz is printing up a trade paperback of the first storyarc, *Pokémon: The Electric Tale of Pikachu*, this month. It's $12.95, 128 pages and more Pikachu than you can shake a stick at. Also don't miss *Pokémon 3-D Vol. 1*, coming this month from Viz Comics. It's all about Pokémon origami! For a mere $15.95, you can pick up this full-color book and make your own Pikachu! Charmander! Jigglypuff! Hell, even a giant Pikachu head! Who doesn't want one of them?

## GODAI MATE

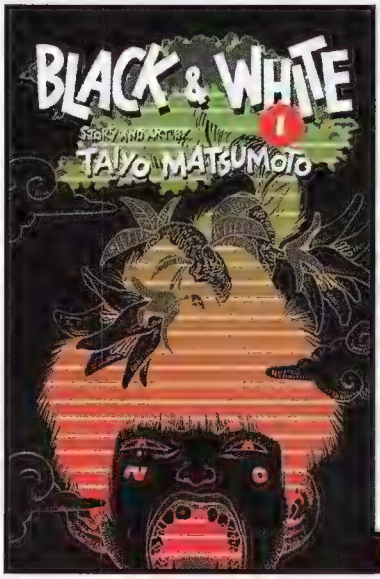
Oh, man! Godai's finally got a date with the love of his life—his young, widowed landlord, Kyoko. But his stupid, nosy housemates won't leave the two of them alone! And who's the one person in the universe you don't want along when you're trying to set a romantic mood? Yep...your grandma. Sheesh. "Maison Ikkoku: Date for Five" is the next installment of this comedy/love story from Viz Video. Bonus! There's also a special flashback story (not originally shown in the manga comic) where Akemi goes for a night on the town with one of those nasty yakuza. Geez, even Wolverine got his ass handed to him by those guys. Watch out, Akemi. It's dubbed in English, 52 minutes and goes for $24.95.

**BABE WITH FLOWERS** Looking for man to date. Don't let your grandmother tag along.

**GENDER BENDER** Switching from a boy to a girl's not so funny, so why's that guy laughing?

## HELP ME, RANMA

Bad enough trying to feel masculine when you turn into a girl every time you're splashed with cold water. But now Ranma Saotome's had his strength sapped away by the pervo master of Anything-Goes Martial Arts, Happosai! "Ranma 1/2, Outta Control: ...The Harder They Fall" arrives in subtitled form this month from Viz Video. It's 52 minutes and $29.95. Pervy martial-arts masters are the worst. Trust us.




**MONOCHROME** Two friends, held apart.

## ...AND READ ALL OVER

From Viz's *Pulp: Manga for Grown-ups* series comes this manga showcase, *Black and White* #1, also from Viz. Best friends Black and White are torn apart when White is taken into foster care. Black becomes increasingly violent on the streets of Treasure Town without his friend's influence, and it's about to take him directly in the path of the not-quite-human killer, the Minotaur. This is the first of five issues; it's 40 pages and goes for $3.25. And, naturally, it's in black and white. Heh.


Pioneer
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# MANIA!

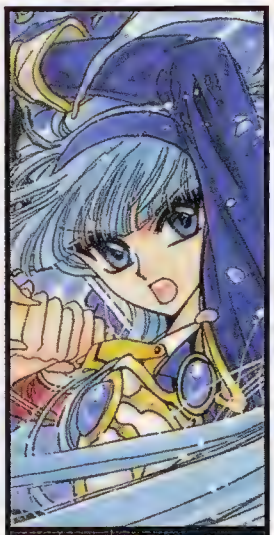
**HOT FOR TEACHER** Don't be square, get a T-square and this instructional magazine.

## MANGAPHILIA

Not getting enough manga in your diet? Pick up *MangaPhile: The Magazine for Manga Fans*! It debuts this month from the lovable folks at Radio Comix. This bi-monthly mag is 32 pages and $2.95. The debut issue features American manga great Adam Warren, responsible for the American version of *The Dirty Pair* and the recent *Magical Drama Queen* Roxy. Also crammed inside are news, reviews, interviews with both American and Japanese creators, comic stories and even a computer coloring tutorial! How can you go wrong?

## KNIGHT FEVER

Mixx Entertainment, parent of *Mixxzine* magazine, loves dishing out big slabs of translated manga. They're best known for *Sailor Moon*, but *Magic Knight Rayearth* might just give the Sailor Scouts a run for their money. Enter the mythical world called Cephiro, where MKR gals Umi, Fuu and Hikaru (with sidekick Mokana) fight, fight, fight to save their world from fearsome foes. It's 208 pages of mayhem for a mere $11.95. Now that's maximum Umi.



**STORMY KNIGHT** Neither sleet nor snow should keep you from *Magic Knight Rayearth*.

# HOTIMPORT!!

THE COOLEST, BESTEST THING COMING ACROSS THE OCEAN

**'ARCH' ANGEL** This "Ghost in the Shell" chick's got good form! We give her a 9.8.

## FALLIN' ANGEL

It's been several years since the domestic theatrical release of the anime blockbuster, but the market for "Ghost in the Shell" merchandise is hungrier than ever. The latest offering is this 14-inch Ghost in the Shell Techno Angel statue of the film's lovely heroine Motoko Kusanagi from Toycom. It runs $129.99 and it's sculpted as a neato, suspended-time action scene. Sheesh, how does she hold that pose? That's gotta be hard on the back.

**YO!** Are you a company who sells manga- and anime-related stuff cool enough to make the grade here? Let us be the judges of that. Send any info and/or samples to:

**"Manga Mania"**
**c/o Wizard Entertainment**
**151 Wells Avenue**
**Congers, NY 10920-2064**

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO COMICS IN THE NEXT MILLENNIUM?

WIZARD®
2000

THE COUNTDOWN CONTINUES...
ON SALE IN NOVEMBER

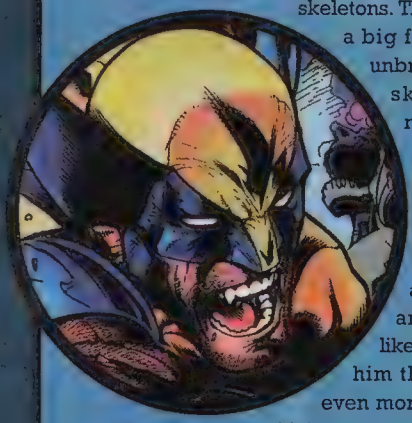
*Wizard: The Comics Magazine* becomes *Wizard 2000* in November.
*Wizard: The Comics Magazine* returns in December with *Wizard #100, The Century Ender.*

# TOP 10 HEROES & VILLAINS

**This list doesn't track the number of copies which a specific character sells each month. It doesn't pay attention to any kind of sales meter. This list is a roster of the 10 comic book characters with the strongest fan following—nothing more, nothing less.**

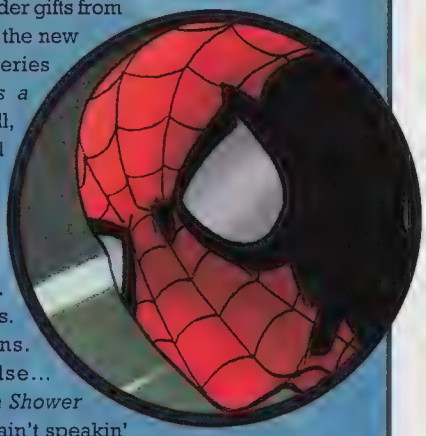
## 1 WOLVERINE

All right, all right, the imminent return of Wolveroonie's adamantium has made him more popular than Oreo cookies. People sure do make a big to-do about unbreakable skeletons. Think they'd make such a big fuss if Jubilee got an unbreakable adamantium skeleton? Think the monthly *Jubilee: Adamantium-Fortified Kicker of Asses* series would top the sales charts? Probably not. There's just something about taking a rough-and-tumble character like Wolverine and giving him the ability to absorb even more punishment. Come to think of it, Wolvie must be dreading that adamantium. It's just an excuse to get his ass kicked even harder on a monthly basis.



## 2 SPIDER-GIRL

Damn, but Spidey-Gal is one popular chicky. Male comic readers love web-slinging wall-crawlers, and male comic readers love cute girls. Slap 'em together into one monthly title, and it's like a gift from heaven. What else would male comic readers consider gifts from heaven? Other than the new monthly Top Cow series *Witchblade Takes a Shower*, that is? Well, let's see. A cool "Spider-Man" movie. World peace. A new *Battle Chasers* each month. A revised tax code. Akiko action figures. Self-mowing lawns. But above all else... *Witchblade Takes a Shower* #1. Hey, tell us we ain't speakin' the truth, muchachos.



## 3 SPAWN

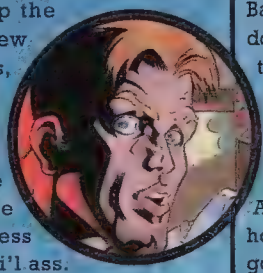
Spawn's neat and all, but the real star of HBO's animated "Spawn" 'toon is Todd McFarlane. Every episode he pops up at the beginning, gives some creepy monologue like, "Spawn, born of darkness, creature of night, hates mimes, likes pumpkin cookies, but all is not what it seems" while all sorts of spooky camera effects make Toddy Mack seem even more off-kilter than normal. Spawn's cool. You can get away with that on a Spawn show. It wouldn't work quite so well on, say, the "Archie" cartoon. "Archie Andrews: master of his own destiny, slave to his own circumstance. Veronica Lodge: prisoner of wealth. Betty: nice ass."

## 4 GAMBIT

It's always a sign of respect when a guy gets his own solo title. Like when "Trapper John, M.D." got spun off from "M*A*S*H*" (except Trapper was a lot older and balder). Gambit here has been toiling in non-solo-title obscurity since *Uncanny X-Men* #266, for crying out loud. Well, except for a mini-series here and there. Who'd have thought a Cajun dude who throws exploding playing cards could've caught on in such a big way? Maybe it's the cool, mysterious name. Some bad names for card-chucking Cajuns: "Ace McCool." "Hoyle Sharky." "The Shuffler." Gotta hand it to that Chris Claremont fella. He knew "Ace McCool" woulda sucked.

## 5 MUTANT X

Mutant number 10? Who the hell is...hey, waitaminnit, that's just Havok! Who the hell does he think he's fooling? Well, at any rate, he's doing a good enough job as this "Mutant X" to keep the fans clamoring for more. His new comic series is going great guns, and he's finally out of his big brother Cyclops' shadow. Cyclops is kind of a bossy bitch most of the time, anyway. If we were Havok, we wouldn't be coming back any time soon. Unless it was to kick Cyclops' skinny li'l ass.



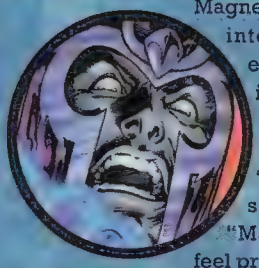
## 6 BATMAN

"No Man's Land" sent ol' Bats soaring to the top of DC readers' pull lists. Although, come to think of it, Batman's never really been that far down the list. Over in the toy industry, the Batman action figure line is considered an "evergreen." It just sells and sells and sells. The Batman of the comic book world might just have that evergreen status, too. Although, if Gotham City were to be overrun by rabid, horny Muppets, you could kiss that evergreen status goodbye. There's always a limit.

## 7 WITCHBLADE

Here at *Wizard* HQ, we get lots of pro-Witchblade mail. Did we say lots? We get Dumpster-fuls of pro-Witchblade mail. And many readers are consistently curious about the state of the Witchblade TV series. Some go so far as to suggest actresses worthy of playing Sara Pezzini in the anticipated production. One reader recently sent in a copy of *Just Come of Age* magazine, with a sticky-note pointing out his choice for Pezzini. Our point? God bless Witchblade, down to her pointy little toes.

## 8 MAGNETO



Magneto! His very name strikes fear into the hearts of superheroes everywhere! It also strikes fear into the hearts of crappy 1980s cartoons. Remember when they used to pronounce his name "Mag-netto"? Heh heh. Those stupid...hey, it really is "Mag-NEET-o," right? Gee, we'd feel pretty dumb. And what's the deal with "Mxyzptlk"? At any rate, Magneto's gonna spell big trouble for them X-Men soon, and he's No. 8 as a result.

## 9 FATHOM

Well, li'l Aspen Matthews finally has a half-dozen issues of her comic series out. Remember back when issue #1 hit the stands? Well, maybe you don't remember, but you might ask your dad if he recalls buying it at the corner grocery for a dime all those years ago. Haw haw! It's fun to tease that Michael Turner guy. Even if he starts kicking your ass with his bad-ass black belt, he loses interest after a couple punches and wanders off to play video games. Oops, we did it again! Haw haw!

## 10 DEADPOOL

The Merc with a Mouth rounds out our list this month, mostly 'cause...he's really, truly, not getting canceled! Yep, it was pretty hairy for a while, but the powers that be at Marvel Central have given 'Pool a stay of execution. Kind of ironic, eh, considering he's an assassin and all? Er...maybe "ironic" isn't the right word. Come to think of it, when's "ironic" ever the right word? Ever since that stupid Alanis Morrissette song, we have no idea what constitutes "irony" and what constitutes "weird, eh?"

# MORT OF THE MONTH

ONE LAME-ASS CHARACTER

## FROG-MAN

**Young Eugene Patilio was damned from the start. He was cursed with a failed inventor for a father, a loser who used the powerful springs he developed to embark on a life of crime as the pathetic Leapfrog. After the Leapfrog finished a stint in the joint, the elder Patilio returned home a broken man. Young Eugene vowed he would make his father proud by donning the Leapfrog costume and using its incredible...uh, jumping powers...to fight crime as the fabulous Frog-Man. After accidentally vanquishing the evil Speed Demon, he joined a crimefighting squad consisting of himself, the Toad and Spider-Kid. Was Dad proud? No, Dad thought he was a huge dork. And so do we. And so should you.**

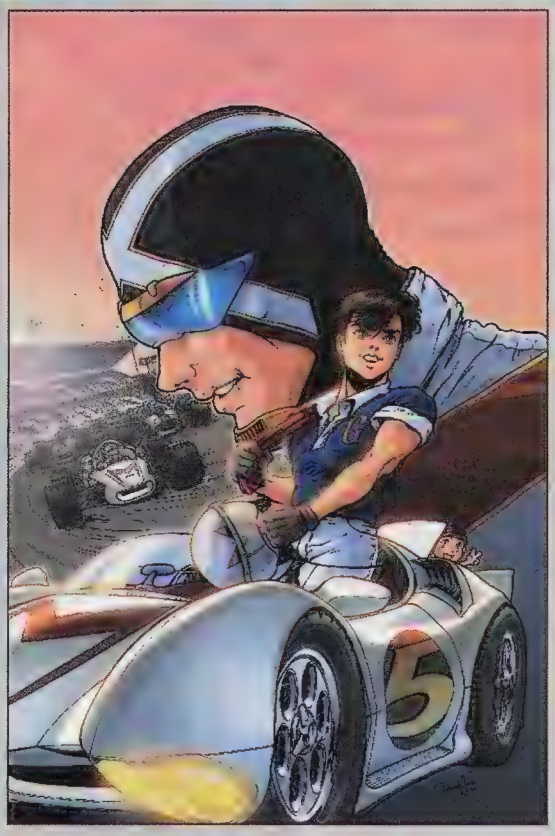
**MORTOMETER**

# picks

## THE MUST-READ COMICS SHIPPING IN AUGUST

## bookofthemonth





### SPEED RACER #1 (OF 3)

**WILDSTORM/DC** Go, Speed Racer, go! Retro '60s cartoons mix with anime as, for the first time ever, cartoon hero Speed Racer is given an origin story! "There's never been an explanation as to how Speed got into racing," writer/artist Tommy Yune says. Yune lets us in on Speed's childhood and shows just why the mysterious Racer X hates Speed so much. It's been a long time coming. "I grew up reading manga, and everyone always said everything I drew looked like Speed Racer," Yune says. "That's not a problem anymore." By Yune. **$2.50**

### ASTONISHING X-MEN #2 (OF 3)

**MARVEL** One X-Men book sells great. Uncannily, a second sells better. Now there's a third? *Astonishing*! When the regular X-Men go quitsville, Cyclops and Phoenix put together a rag-tag collection of substitute X-persons to combat no less a menace than Death herself! By Howard Mackie, Brandon Peterson and Tim Townsend. **$2.50**

### AVENGERS BOOKS

**MARVEL** Gear-grindin' robot mayhem continues as the Avengers (and the Black Panther!) battle Ultron, the living machine, and get a shocking revelation about Ultron's very origin! It's all in *Avengers* #21, by the well-oiled team of Kurt Busiek, George Pérez and Al Vey. Meanwhile, in *Avengers Forever* #11, we are reminded that time travel sucks! The Avengers have to battle the Avengers Battalion of the future, and humanity goes on trial with time-traveling Immortus acting as counsel for the defense. By jurors Busiek, Roger Stern, Carlos Pacheco and Jesus Merino. **$1.99—#21; $2.99—*Forever* #11**

### BAT BOOKS

**DC COMICS** The kick-ass, yearlong "No Man's Land" saga continues as Batman navigates his way through an earthquake-destroyed Gotham. In *Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight* #122 and *Batman: Shadow of the Bat* #90, super-cool penciler Paul Gulacy hits town as Bats ventures to Gotham's Chinatown to figure out why that area suddenly has electricity. Then in *Batman* #570 and *Detective Comics* #737, Harley Quinn makes her presence felt (Look out, Puddin'!) and upsets the tenuous balance in "No Man's Land"...after she makes her debut in the next "Picks" book below. **$1.99 each**

### BATMAN: HARLEY QUINN

**DC COMICS** Ya can't trust chicks as far as ya can bounce 'em. Just ask the Joker. When Arkham Asylum psychologist Harleen Quinzel (Read: "Harley Quinn") throws in with the Joker, the man is all smiles. But when Harley thinks she can run her *own* show, she finds an ally in the evil (but cute!) Poison Ivy...and all hell breaks loose. By Paul Dini, Yvel Guchet and Aaron Sowd, with a cover by some nobody named "Alex Ross." **$5.95**



MR TITLES DENOTED WITH AN MR CONTAIN MATERIAL THAT'S SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS.

## BISHOP: THE LAST X-MAN #1

**MARVEL** Yep. Time travel *still* sucks as Bishop, the X-Man from the future living in our present goes...uh...back to the future. "But the future isn't what it used to be," says writer Joseph Harris. "Or will be. Whatever." The future that ol' Bish winds up in is what Harris describes as "beyond any dystopia. It's mankind crawling from the ashes. Earth is back in the Dark Ages. It's feudalism all over again, and the X-Men are nothing more than a legend." So what's a Bishop to do? Well, he tries to save the future and come to grips with the fact that *he* may have put the world in its present state. By Harris and Georges Jeanty. Forty-eight pages for **$2.99.**

## CAPTAIN AMERICA #22

**MARVEL** Hey, that Black Panther sure gets around! Cap's in the Panther's home nation of Wakanda trying to stop the vibranium in his shield from making the world blow up and stuff. By Mark Waid, Andy Kubert and Jesse Delperdang. And in the *Captain America 1999* annual, Cap tries to solve a murder at the United Nations. By Joe Casey, Pablo Raimondi and Walden Wong. **$1.99—#22; $3.50—*1999***

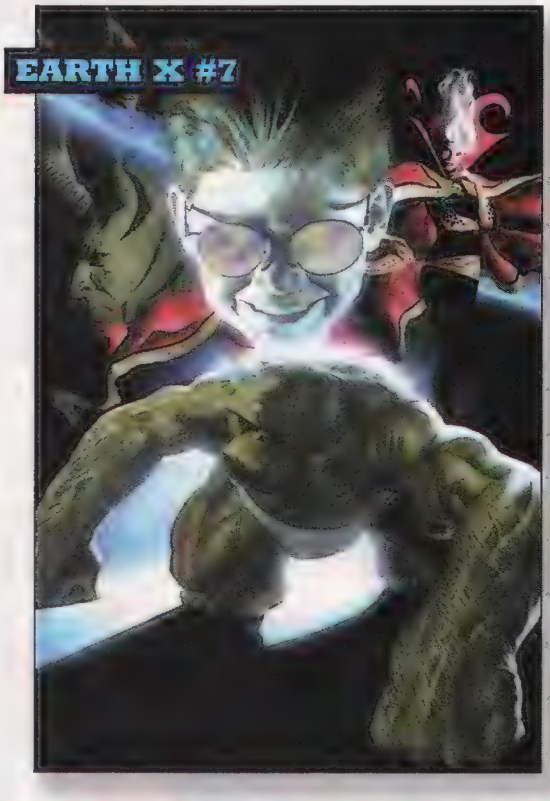
## CLERKS: THE LOST SCENE

**ONI PRESS** Hey, remember that great scene in the "Clerks" movie where Dante and Randal accidentally knocked over the casket at that funeral? No? THAT'S 'CAUSE IT WASN'T IN THE MOVIE! And 'cause paper is cheaper than film, "Clerks" writer/director Kevin Smith is gonna show it to you in a funnybook. By Smith, Phil Hester and Ande Parks. **MR. $2.95**

## DAREDEVIL #9

**MARVEL** New writer David Mack hops on the Hornhead Express and promises a giant grab bag o' fun for his first ish. "There's a new villain introduced, a tie-up of loose ends from the previous storyarc, and a new direction for DD to take in his Matt Murdock identity," says Mack. "Oh, yeah—and then there's the Kingpin!" Seems DD's fattest and most-dangerous foe will park his giant caboose center stage. "There's never been a Kingpin origin story," Mack says. "This issue will start the closest thing there's ever been to one. We'll examine his motivations, and then there are big changes in store for him." Here's hopin' "change" equates to "Slim-Fast Diet" for ol' Chubbins. By Mack, Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti. **$2.50**

BISHOP #1


EARTH X #7

## DARK HORSE PRESENTS ANNUAL: DHP JR.

**DARK HORSE, DUH** They weren't *always* heroes, y'know. Flash back with us to a day when all yer favorite Dark Horse stars were little tykes. See Hellboy when he was just a cute li'l Hellkid. See Xena before she could fill out her breastplate. See Luke Skywalker when he was a whiny brat you just wanted to bitch-slap across the room. And see Concrete back before he was made of, well, concrete. By, like, 18 different guys. Sixty-four pages and **$4.95.**

## DARKNESS #26

**TOP COW/IMAGE** Just to prove that no bad deed goes unpunished, mob hitman and Darkness-dude Jackie Estacado is called on the carpet for the sins of his past. Seems some chump Jackie iced waaay back in *Darkness* #1 was an undercover FBI agent. Now, the boys from the Bureau are gunnin' for Jackie. Better duck! By Scott Lobdell and Clarence Lansang. **$2.50**

## EARTH X #7 (OF 12)

**MARVEL** In this pulse-pounding chapter of a possible Marvel future, the Hulk goes to the realm of death lookin' for

the soul of Captain Marvel and all we get is this lousy T-shirt. Meanwhile, Captain America marshals his forces against the growing threat of the Skull! By Jim Krueger, John Paul Leon and Bill Reinhold. Cover by that Alex Ross chump. **$2.99**

## FATHOM #9

**TOP COW/IMAGE** There is never any advance information on *Fathom*, and that's the way the creators want it. Suffice it to say that *Fathom* #9 ends the book's first storyarc. Expect plenty of water and hot chicks in bikinis. By Michael Turner, Bill O'Neil and Joe Weems for **$2.50.** Now get thee to *Flash & Green Lantern*.

## FLASH & GREEN LANTERN: THE BRAVE & THE BOLD #1 (OF 6)

**DC COMICS** Meanwhile, there's *oodles* of info on *Flash & Green Lantern*, the nifty-swell retro tale of Barry Allen (He's the Flash!) and Hal Jordan (Green Lantern!). "It's not about punch-ups," co-writer Mark Waid tells us. "It's about friendship. I defy anyone to tell me why these guys are friends. Barry's a laid-back, Midwestern, crew-cut guy, and Hal's a fast-living, West Coast jet-jockey. They have nothing in common except they both wear costumes. Yet they had one of the most enduring friendships in comics. We'll tell you why here." That, and some alien race is bent on destroying humanity, 'cause that's what alien races usually do. By Waid, Tom Peyer and Barry Kitson. **$2.50**

## HULK #7

**MARVEL** Sure sucks to be the Hulk these days. And sucks even more to be reading *Hulk* these days. Let's see, if ol' Greenskin's not about to be crushed by overblown and overdialogued captions, he's out mucking it up with the Man-Thing. And now it seems Earth's Mightiest Heroes, the Avengers, enter the picture! Yay. By John Byrne, Ron Garney and Dan Green. **$1.99**

# ontheedge

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

## LIFE OF A FETUS

**SLAVE LABOR GRAPHICS**

Bein' in the womb ain't all that. It's pretty dark, you're constantly swimming in amniotic fluid and there's no cable TV. And we all crave independence, right? So it's small wonder when one li'l tyke decides to go splitsville! And as if life as a fetus wasn't tough enough, this little guy suddenly finds himself on the run from space aliens, crazed truck drivers, baby sitters with jet packs and masked wrestlers. By Andy Ristiano, who must have what Californians call "issues" with his mother. **$2.95**

## JLA #34

**DC COMICS** Is it just us, or has JLA stood for "Jumbled Lunacy Abounds" lately? Can this book get any *more* convoluted? Sheesh. Anyway, the Man's been keepin' the inmates of Belle Reve prison down too long! So when a super-baddie arranges for a riot, the residents of Cell Block B are more than happy to go nuts. Green Lantern responds to the situation, but when he loses his power ring... somebody's gonna make GL their girlfriend. Grabbing their ankles are Grant Morrison, Howard Porter and John Dell. **$1.99**

## NASH #1

**IMAGE** Ever see "Road Warrior"? Well, now you can *read* it. Only this time, instead of Mel Gibson cruising a post-apocalyptic landscape on a motorcycle, you've got WCW pro rassler Kevin Nash (a guy who likes to call himself "Big Sexy") cruising a post-apocalyptic landscape on a motorcycle. Bring the family. By Kevin Nash, Marat Mychaels and Jaime Mendoza. **$2.50**

## NEW WARRIORS #1

**MARVEL** Old New Warriors Nova, Namorita, Turbo and (tee-hee!) Speedball join up with new New Warriors Jolt and Aegis as the newest version of Marvel's teen team takes on Blastarr, the living bomb-burst! And if the Warriors don't win, Long Island will get sucked into the Negative Zone. (Hmm...we still ain't sure who to root for in this one.) Jay Faerber, Steve Scott and Walden Wong bring 48 pages for **$2.99.**

## ROBIN #69

**DC COMICS** Robin's in the "No Man's Land" that is Gotham City, protecting the burg's precious food reserves. But he

never thought he'd have to defend them against the Wolflings, a group of feral teens that have survived the earthquake, live underground and smell pretty ripe by now. By the fresh-scented Chuck Dixon, Staz Johnson and Wayne Fauchet. **$1.99**

## SIN CITY: HELL AND BACK #2 (OF 9)

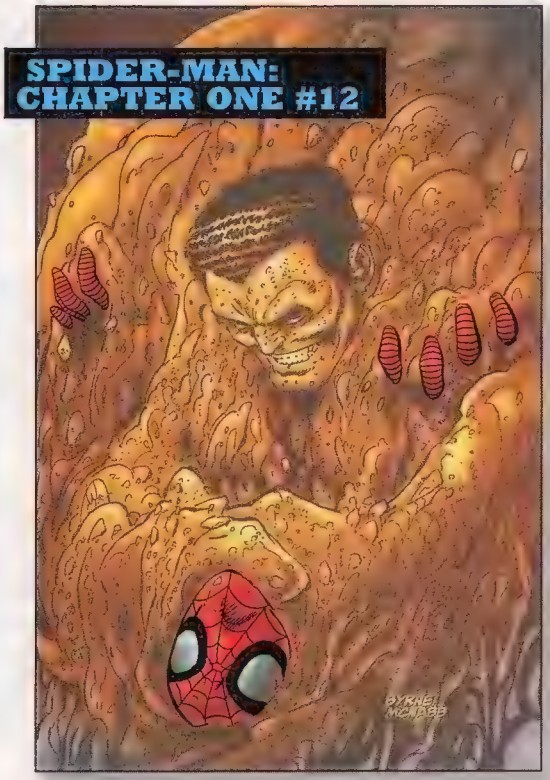
**DARK HORSE** Hear us now, believe us later and think about it in the meantime: No one, and we mean NO ONE, tells bare-knuckled tales of crime fiction like Frank Miller. And even though Miller's billing this yarn as a "love story," you can bet your sweet ass it's tough love. In this ish, our hero Wallace searches for Esther, his newfound love. And hey, this issue even contains naked chicks and guys getting beat up. Bonus! **$2.95**

## SPAWN BOOKS

**TODD MCFARLANE PRODUCTIONS/IMAGE** Nothing really happens in *Spawn* #89, but that's pretty much par for the course. By Greg Capullo, Danny Miki, Todd McFarlane and Brian Holguin. But at least we get a little substance in *Spawn: The Undead* #3, as Spawn intervenes when the forces of Heaven and Hell try to influence a woman drowning in the depths of depression. By Paul Jenkins, Dwayne Turner and Chance Wolf. **$1.95—#89; $2.50—*Undead* #3**

## SPIDER-MAN BOOKS

**MARVEL** More mysterious and completely unnecessary connections are revealed in the double-sized conclusion (Thank God!) that is *Spider-Man: Chapter One* #12 by John Byrne. Meanwhile, in *Amazing Spider-Man* #10, some major-league badass is gunning for *everyone* present at the accident that created Spider-Man. By Howard Mackie, Byrne and Scott Hanna. And in *Peter Parker: Spider-Man* #10, things get even worse when the psycho-killer known as Carnage returns! By Mackie, John Romita Jr. and Hanna. **$1.99 each; $3.50 —*Chapter One* #12**




# newreleases

FIRST TIME OUT

**BODY DOUBLES #1** **(DC Comics)** Hey, *Resurrection Man* got canceled, so why not trot out a mini-series with two *RM* supporting characters? Okay! **$2.50**

**BRIGADE (VOL. 2) #1** **(Awesome)** Awesome teens such as Kid Supreme, Kaboom and Badrock fight evil and pop each other's zits. **$2.99**

**CABLE/WOLVERINE: GUTS 'N' GLORY** **(Marvel)** Flash back to the first-ever meeting between Cable and Wolvie. **$5.99**

**CATWOMAN: GUARDIAN OF GOTHAM #1** **(DC Comics)** What if Catwoman was the protector of Gotham City? She'd be hot ter than Bruce Wayne, that's fer sure! **$5.95**

**CRIMSON SPECIAL #1** **(WildStorm/DC)** Well, golly gee. It's a flashback tale of sexy assassin Scarlet X. **$3.95**

**FANTASTIC FIVE #1** **(Marvel)** The mystery of what happened to the original Fantastic Four is finally revealed in this MC2 extravaganza! **$1.99**

**HELLBOY: BOX FULL OF EVIL #1** **(Dark Horse)** A robbery sets Hellboy on the trail of an archduke of Hell and a gun-toting monkey! Yay, monkey! **$2.95**

**JADE WARRIORS #1** **(Image)** Jade Warrior Yakuza assassins tail a chick who dared to bolt the mob and show much cleavage. **$2.50**

**JLA: FOREIGN BODIES** **(DC Comics)** JLA members' minds inhabit each other's bodies. A guy gets stuck in Wonder Woman, and not surprisingly, just stands in front of a full-length mirror all day. **$5.95**

**MANKIND #1** **(Chaos!)** Some fat freak with a sock puppet rassles people till they say "Uncle!" **$2.95**

**MYSTERY MEN #1** **(Dark Horse)** Seven super-lame pseudo-heroes team up to stop the villainous Casanova Frankenstein! Fun for the whole family! **$2.95**

**NIGHTWING SECRET FILES #1** **(DC Comics)** Secrets of Nightwing are revealed and 'Wing's hometown of Blüdhaven still contains an ümlaut. **$4.95**

**SAM AND TWITCH #1** **(Todd McFarlane Productions/Image)** The police detectives from *Spawn* solve crimes and eat donuts. **$2.50**

**SUPERMAN & BUGS BUNNY #1** **(DC Comics)** The team-up we've all been waiting for! Supes takes a wrong turn at Albuquerque and winds up with the Looney Tunes. It's a Warner Bros. world; we're just livin' in it. **$2.50**

**TOMORROW STORIES #1** **(WildStorm/DC)** Super-cool Alan Moore writes three stories for this super-cool, ongoing anthology. **$3.50**

**WARLOCK #1** **(Marvel)** Take one alien body, add one dead boy's mind and you've got a Warlock. Freaky. **$1.99**

**WILD THING #1** **(Marvel)** The daughter of Wolverine and Elektra is the newest star of the future-looking MC2 line. **$1.99**

**YEAH! #1** **(WildStorm/DC)** So there's this girl band from New Jersey. They ain't too popular here, but man, do they love 'em in outer space! Really! **$2.95**

## SUPERMAN BOOKS

**DC COMICS** Just close your eyes and think of Christmas. The nightmare that the Super-books have become is almost over. If anyone out there still cares, *Adventures of Superman* #571 features Big Blue taking on the (yawn) Atomic Skull. *Action Comics* #758 sees Supes tussle with (we did NOT make this up) a 50-foot lobster robot. A big amphibian plagues Supes in *Superman: The Man of Steel* #93. And in *Superman* #149, some chick shows up in Supes' old (and we had hoped, *retired*) "electric blue" costume. By 12 assorted creators. Personally, we won't be spending **$1.99 each.**

## THOR #16

**MARVEL** Thor without his hammer is a sad thing, indeed. Kinda like a fanboy without Internet porn. So Thor and the Asgardian Warriors Three try to track down the missing mallet Mjolnir. (Maybe it's off where Cap's shield was...) Meanwhile, it looks like there might be an impostor sitting on the throne of Asgard! Forsooth! By Dan Jurgens, John Romita Jr. and Klaus Janson. **$1.99**

## THUNDERBOLTS #31

**MARVEL** When T-bolt Charcoal is abducted by the double-secret and triple-bad organization that created him, his teammates go to the rescue. But what the Thunderbolts find is a criminal conspiracy that has tentacles reaching all throughout the Marvel Universe. Booga booga! By Kurt Busiek, Mark Bagley and Scott Hanna. **$1.99**

## TOM STRONG #5

**WILDSTORM/DC** We've already made it perfectly clear that time travel sucks. And Tom Strong, super-strong and super-smart action hero, is gonna get a first-hand look at just how much "suck" there was three million years ago. "The story involves a little bit of time travel," says writer and beard wearer Alan Moore. "Tom Strong gets stranded in Pangea, Earth's original land mass from millions of years ago. It's not a pleasant locale, as very little life at this time is properly evolved, and the atmosphere is largely formaldehyde." Things were *never* this bad for Sherman and Peabody when they used their Wayback Machine. By Moore, Chris Sprouse, Al Gordon and Jerry Ordway. **$2.95**

TOM STRONG #5

# what I'm reading

PRO PICKS

### JOE QUESADA

**(penciler of *Daredevil*)**

"Currently I'm reading Bryan Talbot's Dark Horse Comics mini-series *Heart of Empire*. Not only is it chock full of big words that I don't understand, but it has what's developing into a wonderful, intriguing story with some really pretty pictures, too. I read *Preacher*—pardon the pun—religiously every month, as well as Dan Jurgens and John Romita Jr.'s *Thor*. And I read *Jay and Silent Bob* whenever Kevin Smith gets around to it."

## UNCANNY X-MEN #373

**MARVEL** Not realizing that all of comicdom depends on their sales, the X-Men decided to disband. So this ish, we get a tale of Colossus and Marrow takin' on Mikhail Rasputin, Colossus' oh-so-crazy and very Russian brother. By Alan Davis, Adam Kubert and Matt Banning. **$1.99**

## VAMPIRELLA #18

**HARRIS** Hello, baby! After a year or so of stalkin' 'round in a union suit with giant wooden spikes stickin' out of it, Vampi's back in the classic costume that launched a thousand sleepless nights and fitful dreams. By David Conway, Stephen Grant and Patrick Zircher. There's even a bonus back-up story by Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale. Hoo-hah! **$2.95**

## WARLANDS #1

**IMAGE** If you can imagine creatures from dozens of different races all thrown together in a land that shouldn't be against a backdrop of evil almost incomprehensible to the mortal mind...well, you've just imagined New York City. That, or *Warlands*. By Pat Lee, Adrian Tsang and Alvin Lee. **$2.50**

## WITCHBLADE #34

**TOP COW/IMAGE** Funky things have been happening to the Witchblade. Immortal badass Kenneth Irons has placed a new—and evil!—gem in the 'Blade, and the durned thing just hasn't been acting right lately. What's this lead to? "Big durned things in issue 34," according to co-writer Christina Z. "Sara Pezzini tries to experiment with the Witchblade in a controlled environment. But the Witchblade is *so* volatile right now, this really isn't a good idea." By Z., David Wohl, Randy Green and the inimitable D-Tron. **$2.50**

## WOLVERINE #143

**MARVEL** Canadians are usually three things: fans of hockey, drunk on Labatts, and loyal to the end. So is it any wonder that when Canadian superteam Alpha Flight gets in a pinch, fellow Maple Leafer Wolverine comes runnin' to the rescue? Nope. And he'll probably bring a few six-packs home with him when all is said and done. By Erik Larsen, Leinil Francis Yu and Dexter Vines. **$1.99**

## X-MEN #93

**MARVEL** As this whole "the X-Men are broken up" thing begins to get very tiring, Shadowcat and Rogue tussle with...Sunfire! And since tussling with the compact Pontiac automobile called a Sunfire would be rather boring, writer Alan Davis has arranged instead for a battle with the nuclear mutant called Sunfire. By Davis and Mark Farmer. **$1.99**

# characterprofile

RAP SHEET

## GREEN LANTERN

**FASHION PLATE** Kyle's costume is actually a mental construct made from his ring, so he can unmask or disrobe instantly, and make out with his gal Jade. (*Green Lantern* #107)

**BRAIN POWER** Kyle's ring is only as strong as his mind. Kyle's wild and artistic imagination is primarily responsible for his talent at ring-slinging...(*Green Lantern Secret Files and Origins* #1)

**POWER PACK** Kyle's ring doesn't have vulnerabilities like previous GL rings. It can dust anything yellow and has no set time limit, although Kyle still needs to recharge it occasionally with his battery. (*Green Lantern* #51)

**BRAIN DRAIN** ...Unfortunately, Kyle's mind is also his greatest weakness. He's completely vulnerable if rendered mentally inert, like when Prometheus used neural chaff to interfere with Kyle's brain activity. (*JLA* #17)

**WORD UP** Kyle'd fit right in at the U.N. or outer space thanks to his ring, which acts as a Universal Translator, instantly interpreting whatever he's saying or hearing.

**IN THE GENES** Keyed to his genetic structure, Kyle's ring can only be utilized by him or his offspring with a similar genetic makeup. Cary Wren, a 30th-century descendant, once used it to save Kyle's bacon. (*Green Lantern* #99)

**GAL PAL** Remember, Kyle can create anything he wants...even people. Kinda. After whipping up an airplane for himself and Green Arrow, Kyle created quite the babe-alicious pilot. (*Green Lantern* #76)

**FEAR ITSELF** The one thing that separates Kyle from former GL Hal Jordan is that he knows fear. Morpheus, the Master of Dreams, once told Kyle that fear would be his greatest asset. (*JLA* #22)

**PERMANENT PRESS** With tons of energy and concentration, Kyle's ring constructs can remain permanent, like when he created a locket for his then-girlfriend Donna Troy or a Hal Jordan statue at Hal's memorial service. (*Green Lantern* #78 and #81)

**SHIELDS UP!** Kyle's ring creates a protective layer around his body that also lets him breathe underwater and in space, and even maintains Kyle's body temperature, siphons off his sweat, and monitors his muscle tone. (*JLA* #1)

### ORIGIN

When his Green Lantern predecessor Hal Jordan went rogue and a bit nutso, Kyle Rayner suddenly found himself thrust into the role of superhero. Kyle just happened to be in the right place at the right time when Ganthet, last of the Guardians of Oa, foisted the green ring on him. After some shaky early moments, Kyle quickly got a handle on how to sling the ring, and has since established himself as quite the hero. Still, it was only after duking it out with Hal that Kyle finally felt at ease in the role of GL, and he has clearly proven himself as a member of the JLA.

### NOW APPEARING

Besides appearing each month in *Green Lantern* and *JLA*, Kyle also plays a role in this summer's DC crossover event "Judgment Day," and the timing couldn't be worse. Kyle's old flame Donna Troy comes back into his life in *Green Lantern* #118, wreaking havoc on his relationship with his current girlfriend, Jade. "Beyond all that, look for the return of some old friends," says *GL* writer Ron Marz. "We're starting a major storyarc beginning in #121 that'll feature the Guardians, the Green Lantern Corps and lots of other stuff, but not in a way anybody expects...!"

COMIC MARKET NEWS AND SUCH by Lars Pearson

# MARKET WATCH

## MEGA MANGA MASH!

### Big-eyed girls in skirts race with Pokémon

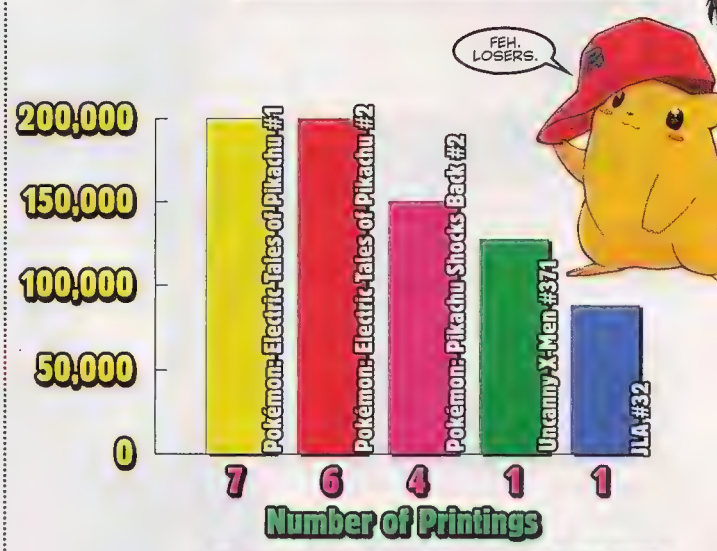
Sailor Moon shoots so high, she's practically in orbit.

As parents and their kids whip stores in a Pokémon-buying frenzy, *Sailor Moon* has settled into the No. 2 manga slot. Published by Mixx Entertainment, *Sailor Moon* features the story of Serena (as she's called in the cartoon) or Bunny (her comic name), a high-school freshman given magical powers by a talking black cat. She becomes a princess of the moon, surrounded by the Sailors, her royal guard.

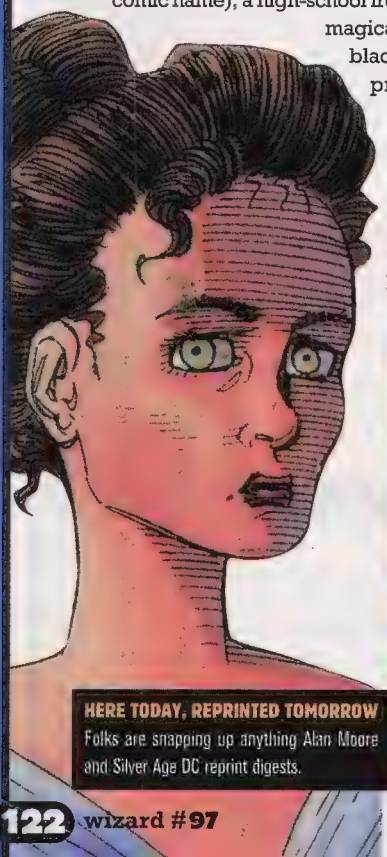
Prices on the female-oriented *Sailor Moon* have been driven by the droves of women the title has brought into the hobby. The comics, popping in price every month, are simple to collect—nine issues so far, with only one variant: a "hot pink" San Diego ComiCon version of #1 that nets about $25.

But it's a popular misconception that *Sailor Moon* #1 is the character's first American comic appearance. That distinction belongs to *Mixxzine* #1, an anthology title. The *Sailor Moon* comic picked up where *Mixxzine*—soon to be retitled *Tokyo Pop*—left off. Today, *Sailor Moon* graphic novels reprint the *Mixxzine* stories. *Mixxzine* #1 already grabs about $10, and later issues are catching up fast.

**PIKA RULES** Today's best-selling comic? Eat dust, X-Men! *Pokémon* blows away the competition with multiple printings.




**SOURCES:** Viz Entertainment and Diamond Comic Distribution.



**HERE TODAY, REPRINTED TOMORROW** Folks are snapping up anything Alan Moore and Silver Age DC reprint digests.

## DC DIGESTS GET BIG!

They're small in size, but not in price.

In the late 1970s and early '80s, DC turned to digests as a way of profiting from reprints. The trend petered out about 1986, as these mini-sized tomes printed on the crappiest paper possible lost favor. But today, these condition-sensitive books are viewed as a cheap source of Silver Age stories. So of course, they're going up in price. Some DC digests are even moving in the $10-$15 range.

Consider *Adventure Comics*. By the end of its 48-year run, interest fell and the title featured such uninspiring leads as "Dial H For Hero." From issues #491 to #503, the

book went into digest format, reprinting stories of the Legion of Super-Heroes, Spectre, Plastic Man and more. *The Best of DC* lasted 71 issues from 1979 to 1986. Again, it was mostly reprints, although some new stories of the Legion or (God help us) Sugar and Spike appeared. A third series, *DC Special Blue Ribbon Digest*, hit 24 issues.

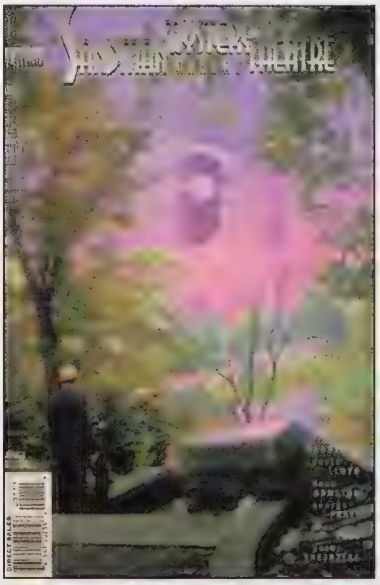
For Silver Age collectors, these are an untapped mine, a way to avoid paying hefty prices on Silver Age originals. They also reprint some oddballs such as the first "Superman Red/Superman Blue" story, if you're one of the 3.4 people who liked it. For a full breakdown of key issues, consult this issue's price guide.

## THREE EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

We've mentioned them before, here they are again—three creators you can't afford to miss, and their works you *don't* know about.

• **Alan Moore**—As writer Alan Moore's America's Best Comics line blasts through shops like a blowtorch through a slab of lard, his *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* #1 and #2 sell at up to $10 each. *Tom Strong* #1, the second ABC offering, can grab $5.50.

But Moore's back-issue breakaway



**NO MYSTERY** Alex Ross' first DC work is going up.

is *Miracleman*, published by now-defunct Eclipse Comics. Collectors have tagged issue #15, featuring the death of Kid Miracleman, as the scarcest of the bunch. *Miracleman* #15 has hit more than $50 on several occasions, but nationwide sales average the book at a more reasonable $25.

# TOP 10 CREATORS

FAN FAVORITES, WRESTLING STYLE!

**These are the creators the fans crave. Creators whose name on a cover sells the book. *Wizard*'s Top Ten Creators lists are derived from a nationwide retailer survey. Artists include pencilers and painters.**

## WRITERS

**1. Kevin Smith**
*Clerks, Daredevil*

**2. Kurt Busiek**
*Iron Man, Avengers*

**3. Garth Ennis**
*Preacher, Hitman*

**4. Alan Moore**
America's Best Comics

**5. Mark Waid**
*Flash, The Brave & the Bold*

**6. Dan Jurgens**
*Thor, Superman*

**7. Grant Morrison**
*JLA, The Invisibles*

**8. Warren Ellis**
*Planetary, Transmetropolitan*

**9. Alan Davis**
*Uncanny X-Men, X-Men*

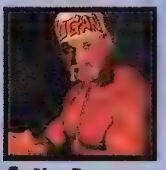
**10. Chuck Dixon**
*Nightwing, Robin*

## ARTISTS

**1. Michael Turner**
*Fathom*

**2. George Pérez**
*Avengers*

**3. Adam Kubert**
*Uncanny X-Men*



**4. Alex Ross**
*Earth X*

**5. Joe Madureira**
*Battle Chasers*

**6. J. Scott Campbell**
*Danger Girl*

**7. Joe Quesada**
*Daredevil*

**8. Andy Kubert**
*Captain America*

**9. Salvador Larroca**
*Fantastic Four*

**10. Ron Garney**
*Hulk*

# BURIED TREASURE

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THIS

## BATMAN #567

Readers are batty for Batgirl! When the "new" Batgirl debuted in *Batman: Shadow of the Bat* #83, we said you should watch it, and the book hit $10. Now that Batgirl stands revealed as the Huntress, there's a *new* Batgirl–introduced right here.

As the nameless daughter of Cain, an assassin who helped train Bruce Wayne, the quiet Batgirl is primed and ready to be a hit. How do we know? Well, looks like year 2000 will see a new *Batgirl* ongoing series! And this book, published only two months ago, can be had for the price of a pair of Snickers bars for you and your girlfriend. Don't have a girlfriend? Then you know what to buy... ■ LP

PHOTOS: BUSIEK, SMITH, ADAM KUBERT, MADUREIRA, ROSS, TURNER, MARK QUESADA, BY PAUL SCHIRALDI; MORRISON, MOORE BY BOB MARTIN; PEREZ BY BOB SMITH; ENNIS, JURGENS BY WIZARD; ELLIS BY SCOTT NYGUNKEN; ANDY KUBERT BY CRAIG BLANKENHORN; CAMPBELL BY JOHN W. MCDONOUGH; DAVIS BY DC COMICS; DIXON BY PAUL SCHIRALDI; LARROCA BY LARROCA; GARNEY BY PAUL SCHIRALDI

And the *real* coin may lie in dusty, forgotten-about *Miracleman* collections. We've seen one *Miracleman: Book 3* hardcover sell for over $240! *Miracleman* paperbacks also hold fast, with *Book 2* sales at about $40.

A possible sleeper? *Warrior 1982 Summer Special*, a British magazine with an Miracleman story by Moore never reprinted. It's already a crisp $20—if you can find it.

• **Alex Ross**—Almost every work blessed by comicdom's top cover artist is up, from his first work, *Terminator: The Burning Earth* #1 (sells for up to $10), to his first DC work, *Sandman Mystery Theatre Annual* #1 ($5).

*Anything* Ross related has value—especially non-comics. The 1998 San Diego ComiCon program, with an exclusive Superman cover by Ross, trades at about $12. A throw-away retailer display of *Superman Forever* cover art is hitting the $30 range. Even a flimsy *Kingdom Come Preview* by Ross, given away in comic shops by the hundreds, is a strong $10. Guess Ross' crap *has* become gold.

• **Warren Ellis**—The feverish devotion that readers heap upon writer Warren Ellis' *Transmetropolitan* and *Planetary* is starting to snowball. A mere six months old, *Planetary* #1 now sells at up to $7, and Ellis' back-issue armada is now a candidate for increases.

**CAP ON DRUGS** But Ellis doesn't make him a werewolf.

The top contender is *Ruins*, a two-issue Marvel "Alterniverse" story where Ellis makes mincemeat out of every Marvel character you can think of. In addition, Ellis had a little-noticed run on Marvel's *Hellstorm* #12-#21 (the series' final issues) and wrote a *Druid* mini-series, both seeing price action. In the "sleeper" category? Ellis' delightfully twisted run featuring a drug-addled Captain America on *Doom 2099* (#26-#39) and a two-issue Image mini-series called *Celestine*, drawn by current fan fave Pat Lee of *Darkminds* fame. They're all cheap, and so full of gore that reading them qualifies you for psychotherapy. So of course, you'll like 'em.

*Wizard Price Guide Kahuna Lars Pearson likes peanut butter. And he likes his chocolate. Put 'em together and it's DE-LICIOUS!!!*

# RETAILER NETWORK & V.I.P.s

RELIABLE SOURCES

Bruno Andreacchi
B.A.'s Comics & Nostalgia
121 Oxford St. East London
Ontario, Canada N6A 1T4
(519) 439-9636

Chris Barchuk
Wizard World
Rockland Center
51 E. Rt. 59
Nanuet, NY 10954
(914) 624-2224

Dave Braunstein
Eldorado Comics
2110 E. Rt. 70
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
(609) 489-1199

Rich Conley
Heroes & Fantasies
914 Pat Brooker Road
Universal City, TX 78148
(210) 945-9884

D. Roberts & J. Walker
Legends Comics
Kentucky Oaks Mall
5101 Hinkleville Rd.
Paducah, KY 42001
(612) 822-2806

Dash Hobbeheydar &
Mark Laskowski
And Then it Rained Comics
P.O. Box 11041
Scottsdale, AZ 85271
(602) 990-9224

Steve Huber
Galaxy Comics
10 North 36th Street
Richmond, IN 47374
(765) 962-8239

Brian Kozicki & John Cathell
Buried Under Comics
188 West Middle Turnpike
Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 643-7295

Ivan Matos
Comic Connection
2128-C Fort Campbell Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37042
(615) 572-9588

Ron McClure
American Comics and Cards
6787 Lee Highway
Chattanooga, TN 37421
(423) 490-0501

Avrom Oliver
Adventures in Comics & Games
6026 Fair Oaks Blvd.
Carmichael, CA 95608
(916) 973-9064

Jerry Ringi
Amazing Fantasy
4300 Portsmouth Blvd.
Suite 192
Chesapeake, VA 23321
(757) 465-8390

Tom Shea
TJ Collectibles
160 Main St.
Milford, MA 01757
(508) 473-5874

Steve Snyder
Central City Comics
1460 Bethel Rd.
Columbus, OH 43220
(614) 459-5045

Joel Thingvall
Nostalgia Zone
3149 1/2 Hennepin Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55406
(612) 822-2806

Doug Miers
Comics Conspiracy
115 A. East Fremont Ave.
Sunnyville, CA 94087
(408) 245-6275

Stuart Wagner
Caveman
1344 E. Battlefield
Springfield, MO 65804
(417) 882-2283

Robert Scott
Comickaze Comics
& Sportscards
5615 Balboa Ave.
San Diego, CA 92111
(619) 278-0371

Nolan Wyatt
Golden Apple Comics
7711 Melrose
Los Angeles, CA 90046
(213) 658-6047

Todd McDevitt
New Dimension Comics
Units 20-21
20550 Rte. 19
Cranberry Township, PA
16066-7520
(412) 776-0433

Phil Davis
B & D Comic Shop
802 Elm St. South West
Roanoke, VA 24016
(703) 342-6642

Damon McCulloch
Comics & Comix
6135 Sunrise Blvd.
Citrus Heights, CA 95610
(916) 969-0717

Robert Letscher II
Key Comics
PO Box 3855
Scottsdale, AZ 85271-3855
(602) 949-8499

John Chrusckinski &
Bruce Ellsworth
Tropic Comics
313 S. State Rd. #7
Plantation, FL 33317

James Elkins
Comic Connection
21280 Ft. Campbell Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37042
(615) 572-9588

David Beauchamp
Penguin Comics
3315 S. Walwood
Springfield, MO 65804
(417) 551-2051

John Graziano
Comics Plus
1383 Highway 35
Middletown, NJ 07748
(908) 706-0102

Mark Thompson
Cold Cuts
5704 Calmor Ave. #1
San Jose, CA 95123
(408) 229-0930

Jamie Graham
5 East Chicago Ave.
Naperville, IL 60540
(630) 778-0700

Mike Johnson
Golden Apple
7711 Melrose Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90046

Brian Johnson
All About Books & Comics
517 E. Camelback
Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 277-0757

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# TOP 10 comics

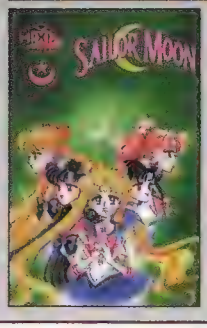
***Wizard*, by staying in touch with hundreds of retailers throughout the country, keeps a close eye on the country's hottest back issues. These are the books ringing the registers this month...**

## 1 POKéMON: THE ELECTRIC TALE OF PIKACHU #1

**WRITER:** Toshihiro Ono
**ARTIST:** Toshihiro Ono

Mighty, mighty Pikachu! He's just one little electric mouse thingie (actually, he's not even a he, he's an it, but well...we're just not gonna play that game!) but all by his lonesome, he's hoisted the comic book industry onto his little yellow shoulders and trudged, step by step, out of the Valley of Despair and up, up, up the Mountain of Prosperity. Yaaaay! Uh...that's what we're predicting, anyway. Check back next month for an update. **LAST MONTH: 1**

## 2 SAILOR MOON #1




**WRITER:** Naoko Takeuchi
**ARTIST:** Naoko Takeuchi

In Japan, she's Usagi; on U.S. TV, Serena; but if you're a comics reader, we'd like to introduce you to Bunny, the schoolgirl who whomps evil as Sailor Moon. Why Bunny? Because "usagi" means "bunny" in Japanese–just ask Usagi Yojimbo if you don't believe us! Anyway, when a talking cat named Luna shows up to guide Bunny toward her Sailor Moon destiny, she gets a bunch of cool powers and a much shorter hemline. Luna, you're our kind of cat. **LAST MONTH: NOT RATED (N.R.)**

## 3 WHAT IF...? (VOL. 2) #105

**WRITERS:** Tom DeFalco and Ron Frenz
**ARTISTS:** Ron Frenz and Bill Sienkiewicz

What do you get when Tom DeFalco and Bill Sienkiewicz collaborate on *What If...?* #105? The best of Frenz! Bwah-ha-ha! Get it? Frenz? Heh. Anyway, Spider-Girl remains the obsession of readers across the galaxy thanks to her very own book in the MC2 line. That, and the fact that she fills out a spider-suit a lot better than her old man... **LAST MONTH: 2**

## 4 LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN #1

**WRITER:** Alan Moore
**ARTIST:** Kevin O'Neill

Alan Moore hysteria! Now if we shaped the world, right now he'd be tearing around London on a bike being chased by 200 screaming, 13-year-old girls while "A Hard Day's Night" played in the background. In reality, though, he's probably sitting in his castle watching "Mr. Bean" reruns. **LAST MONTH: N.R.**

## 5 POKéMON: THE ELECTRIC TALE OF PIKACHU #2

**WRITER:** Toshihiro Ono
**ARTIST:** Toshihiro Ono

We hear that the flesh of the wild Pikachu, when smoked, cured and seasoned, then diced and browned in a panful of slivered onions and a splash of sherry, served over a bed of rice and greens, still tastes like rat meat. But damn, them Pikachus can sell comics. **LAST MONTH: N.R.**

## 6 UNDERTAKER #1

**WRITER:** Beau Smith
**ARTISTS:** Manny Clark and Sandu Florea

When you're nearly 7 feet tall, dressed all in black, covered in tattoos and sporting a head of straggly, unwashed hair, there's not a whole lot else you can do except battle forces of the undead (or be a pro wrestler–but that's taking things too far). Odds are you ain't running the Daisy Hill Puppy Farm daycare center. **LAST MONTH: 4**

## 7 PLANETARY #1

**WRITER:** Warren Ellis
**ARTIST:** John Cassaday

If the world worked the way we wanted, right now Warren Ellis would be tearing around London on a bicycle being chased by 200 screaming, 13-year-old wombats while "A Hard Day's Night" played in the background. In reality, though, he's probably ringing the doorbell at Alan Moore's castle and lighting a bag of dog crap on fire. **LAST MONTH: N.R.**

## 8 MIRACLEMAN #15

**WRITER:** Alan Moore
**ARTIST:** John Totleben

Hello?!? What the heck is *this* book doing here? It came out like 11 years ago!!! Seems Alan Moore hysteria is running so rampant that fans are storming comic shops just to get their mitts on anything the True Brit had a hand in. This here ish has always been tough to find, and thanks to Alan Moore hysteria, it's now downright umpossible! **LAST MONTH: N.R.**

## 9 MUTANT X #1

**WRITER:** Howard Mackie
**ARTISTS:** Tom Raney and Andrew Pepoy

If you buy one X-book, you gotta buy 'em all. Except in the case of *Mutant X*, which stands alone. Mebbe that's why X-readers are so gonzo over this issue. Or maybe they just love Cyclops' brother Havok. Or mebbe people will buy anything with a #1 on the cover. That would explain the wild success of *Tom Brokaw Presents* #1. **LAST MONTH: 6**

## 10 TELLOS #1

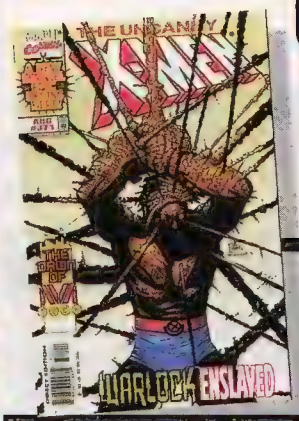
**WRITER:** Todd Dezago
**ARTISTS:** M. Wieringo, N. Massengill and R.Case

Dezago! Wieringo! And Samuel L. Jackson as the cranky police chief who wants them both off the force! What more could any fan of slam-bang comics entertainment want outta life? How about some fantastic art and a cool fantasy story? This one's generating what we in the industry call "lots of sales," so keep your eye on it. **LAST MONTH: N.R.**

THE HIGHEST-ORDERED BOOKS FOR THE MONTH OF **JUNE**

# TOP100

**Compiled by the *Wizard* Price Guide staff using data supplied by Diamond Comic Distributors.**




"Rage Against the Machine," the story launching three new books, started in *Uncanny* #371.

**1. Uncanny X-Men #371 (Marvel)**
2. X-Men #91 (Marvel)
3. Spawn: The Undead #1 (Todd McFarlane/Image)
4. Spawn #87 (Todd McFarlane/Image)
5. Avengers #19 (Marvel)
**6. X-Men 1999 (Marvel)**
7. JLA #32 (DC)
8. Wolverine #141 (Marvel)
9. Earth X #5 (Marvel)
10. Daredevil #10 (Marvel)
11. Fathom #7 (Top Cow/Image)
12. Amazing Spider-Man #8 (Marvel)
**13. JSA #1 (DC)**
14. Fantastic Four #20 (Marvel)
15. Thor #14 (Marvel)
16. Peter Parker: Spider-Man #8 (Marvel)
17. Captain America #20 (Marvel)
18. Spawn: The Dark Ages #4 (Todd McFarlane/Image)
19. Avengers Forever #9 (Marvel)
20. Star Wars: The Phantom Menace—Queen Amidala #1 (D.H.)
21. Wolverine/Punisher: Revelation #3 (Marvel)
22. Star Wars: The Phantom Menace—Qui-Gon Jinn #1 (D.H.)
23. Iron Man #19 (Marvel)
24. Spider-Woman #2 (Marvel)
25. Mutant X #11 (Marvel)
**26. Promethea #1 (WildStorm/DC)**
27. The Darkness #25 (Top Cow/Image)
28. Witchblade #33 (Top Cow/Image)
29. Gambit #7 (Marvel)
30. Batman #568 (DC)
31. Black Widow #3 (Marvel)
32. Crimson #12 (WildStorm/DC)
33. Hulk #5 (Marvel)
34. Detective Comics #735 (DC)
35. Generation X #54 (Marvel)
36. X-Force #93 (Marvel)
37. Spider-Man: Chapter One #10 (Marvel)
38. Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #120 (DC)
39. Aria #6 (Avalon Studios/Image)
40. Inhumans #10 (Marvel)
41. Green Lantern #115 (DC)
42. Cable #70 (Marvel)
43. Titans #6 (DC)
44. Astro City #18 (WildStorm/DC)
**45. Batman: Shadow of the Bat #88 (DC)**
46. Thunderbolts #29 (Marvel)
47. Nightwing #34 (DC)
48. Tom Strong #3 (WildStorm/DC)
49. X-Man #54 (Marvel)
50. Superman #147 (DC)
51. Peter Parker: Spider-Man 1999 (Marvel)
52. Spider-Girl #11 (Marvel)
53. Iron Man 1999 (Marvel)
54. Buffy the Vampire Slayer #10 (Dark Horse)
55. Preacher #52 (Vertigo/DC)
**56. Pokémon vol. 2: Pikachu Shocks Back #4 (Viz)**
57. Action Comics #756 (DC)
58. Batman & Superman: World's Finest #5 (DC)
59. Superman: The Man of Steel #91 (DC)
60. KISS: The Psycho Circus #21 (Todd McFarlane/Image)
61. Flash #151 (DC)
62. Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Angel #2 (Dark Horse)
63. Superman: The Man of Tomorrow #14 (DC)
64. Dreams of the Darkchylde #0 (WildStorm/DC)
65. Robin #67 (DC)
66. Dawn: Return of the Goddess #2 (Sirius)
67. Young Justice #11 (DC)
68. Black Panther #10 (Marvel)
69. Star Wars #7 (Dark Horse)
70. Deadpool #31 (Marvel)
**71. Undertaker #4 (Chaos!)**
72. Gen[13] #42 (WildStorm/DC)
73. Planetary #5 (WildStorm/DC)
74. The Authority #4 (WildStorm/DC)
75. JSA Secret Files #1 (DC)
76. Captain America: Sentinel of Liberty #12 (Marvel)
77. Ascension #17 (Top Cow/Image)
78. Tellos #2 (Image)
79. Catwoman #71 (DC)
80. Superman: Last God of Krypton (DC)
81. DC One Million 80-Page Giant #1,000,000 (DC, of course)
82. A-Next #11 (Marvel)
83. Stars and S.T.R.I.P.E. #1 (DC)
84. Nova #4 (Marvel)
85. Darkchylde Summer Swimsuit Spectacular #1 (WildStorm/DC)
86. Supergirl #35 (DC)
87. Coven: Dark Origins #1 (Awesome)
88. Superboy #65 (DC)
89. Webspinners: Tales of Spider-Man #8 (Marvel)
90. Azrael: Agent of the Bat #55 (DC)
91. Spirit of the Tao #11 (Top Cow/Image)
92. More Than Mortal/Lady Pendragon #1 (Image)
93. Birds of Prey #8 (DC)
94. Starman #56 (DC)
95. Martian Manhunter #9 (DC)
96. J2 #11 (Marvel)
97. Elseworlds 80-Page Giant #1 (DC)
98. Wonder Woman #147 (DC)
99. Lady Pendragon: Dragon Blade #3 (Image)
100. Supreme: The Return #2 (Awesome)

# TOP 100 HIGHLIGHTS

## X-MEN RAGE AT THE TOP

**X-Men 1999 (No. 6)**
Marvel's annuals usually don't place too close to their parent titles–check out this month's *Peter Parker: Spider-Man 1999* or *Iron Man 1999* for examples. Yet *X-Men 1999*, featuring part three of the "Rage Against the Machine" storyarc that debuts the M-Tech line, fared very well. Lesson? Connect the annual to the main books via a story and it'll sell better.

**JSA #1 (No. 13)**
This ain't your father's Justice Society. Actually, your father probably never read comics and likely padlocked your books in an old tool shed, vainly hoping you'd eventually discover girls. Anyhoo, retailers ordered *JSA* #1 right after the release of DC's "Justice Society Returns!" fifth-week event, and there's nothing like having copies in hand to spur excitement. That makes *JSA* DC's No. 2 book for the moment, crushing even *Batman*.

**Promethea #1 (No. 26)**
And the Alan Moore beat goes on. With fans raving about *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* and *Tom Strong*, the monthly *Promethea* rang up as another big debut in Moore's America's Best Comics line. By the way, "Weeping Gorilla Comix" is the best-selling comic in the Promethea universe, proving that monkeys always kick ass–even in fiction.

**Batman: Shadow of the Bat #88 (No. 45)**
We've been baffled as to why sales on the Batman books are spread out now that the stories are interconnected in the yearlong "No Man's Land" setting. But the gap is closing. On the direct market, *Shadow* now lags behind *Batman* by a mere 4,500 copies. For you 4,500 readers who apparently read *Batman* and nothing else, we should tell you: Batgirl was Huntress. And the kid becomes Darth Vader.

**Pokémon vol. 2: Pikachu Shocks Back #4 (No. 56)**
Pikachu! Pikachu! Pikachu! While those of us who are overintoxicated on Pokémon products dream of sending Pikachu over Niagara Falls in a barrel, thousands of fans disagree. *Pokémon* sales, already impressive, charged up another 17 percent this month.

**Undertaker #4 (No. 71)**
Man, retailers missed the boat on this one. Consider the lag time in ordering: Orders are placed about three months before shipping, meaning that if a #1 issue does well and retailers decide to up their orders, issue #4 is the soonest their change of heart has effect. *Undertaker* #4 zoomed up an astounding 81 percent (!) over the previous issue, and ranked higher than *Undertaker* #1! That's a sales body slam in any league.

# CLOSE-UP LOOK

Break it on down now! Here's a look at the top-selling books in a couple categories, with their overall Diamond Comic Distributors "Top 300" rankings in parentheses.

**SPAWN'S COLON** It smells funky and there's a lot of red meat in it. *Spawn: The Undead* is this month's top colon book!

## TOP 10 BOOKS WITH A COLON

1. Spawn: The Undead #1 (Todd McFarlane/Image, No. 3)
2. Peter Parker: Spider-Man #8 (Marvel, No. 16)
3. Spawn: The Dark Ages #4 (Todd McFarlane/Image, No. 18)
4. Star Wars: The Phantom Menace—Queen Amidala #1 (D.H., No. 20)
5. Wolverine/Punisher: Revelation #3 (Marvel, No. 21)
6. Star Wars: The Phantom Menace—Qui-Gon Jinn #1 (D.H., No. 22)
7. Spider-Man: Chapter One #10 (Marvel, No. 37)
8. Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #120 (DC, No. 38)
9. Batman: Shadow of the Bat #88 (DC, No. 45)
10. Peter Parker: Spider-Man 1999 (Marvel, No. 51)

## TOP 10 VERTIGO/DC BOOKS

1. Preacher #52 (No. 55)
2. Sandman Presents Love Street #2 (No. 111)
3. Flinch #3 (No. 124)
4. Hellblazer #140 (No. 127)
5. Transmetropolitan #24 (No. 139)
6. Invisibles (vol. 3) #8 (No. 142)
7. 100 Bullets #1 (No. 143)
8. Books of Magic #63 (No. 144)
9. The Dreaming #39 (No. 146)
10. Scene of the Crime #4 (No. 160)

# LOOKING BACK

**What topped the charts FIVE YEARS AGO?**

1. Spawn #24 (Todd McFarlane/Image)
2. X-Men #37 (Marvel)
3. Uncanny X-Men #317 (Marvel)
4. WetWorks #2 (Image)
5. Batman #0 (DC)
6. Gen13 #0 (WildStorm/Image)
7. Wolverine #86 (Marvel)
8. Superman #0 (DC)
9. Superman: The Man of Steel #0 (DC)
10. WildC.A.T.s #13 (WildStorm/Image)

**'WAIT' WORKS** By the time it finally shipped, *WetWorks* was yesterday's news.

Sure, *Spawn* burned both the X-books' butts, but the real story five years ago was an issue of *WetWorks*. Never heard of it? There's a good reason. The book was much-anticipated back in the days when everything Image turned to gold. But *WetWorks* may have set the record for lateness–21 months! Hard for anything to maintain momentum when it's that late. Are you listening, *Danger Girl*?

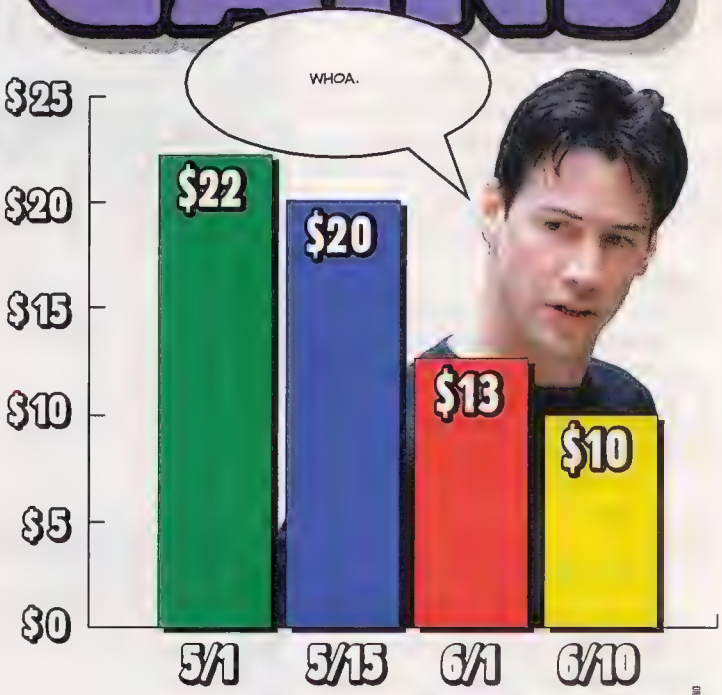
INTERNET REPORT FOR COMPUTER GEEKS EVERYWHERE! by Lars Pearson

# 'NET GAINS

## UNRAVELING 'THE MATRIX'

### Back-door movie comic starts hot, then...

You think your comics are real? Ha! The Matrix knows better. Y'see, a little-known "Matrix" comic book was printed, intended to be given away as a promotional item at movie theaters showing "The Matrix." Though the promotion was canceled, some copies of *The Matrix* still...uh..."snuck out the back door" and were sold online, appropriately enough. Early bids hit $18 to $20 when the movie was hot, but soon dropped to a more reasonable $10. The comic's a great collectible, however, and could gain some serious momentum when "The Matrix 2" arrives.




"THE MATRIX" Source: eBay.com

PHOTO BY JASON SHULMAN

## ups & downs

### GOING UP

We warned you. But you just didn't liste and now it's taking off. The low-printed *Punisher Kills the Marvel Universe*, from the twisted mind of Garth Ennis (*Preacher*), sells in the $15 to $25 range. Meanwhile, *Green Arrow* #101, with the death of GA Oliver Queen, has rocketed to the $30-to-$37 tier.

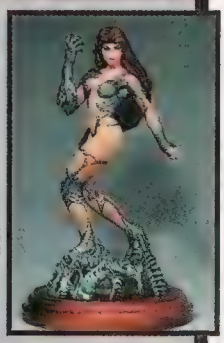
### GOING DOWN

The two "Big S" boys have certainly seen better days. More than half a year into the Spider-Man revamp, the new Spidey series are dead. Issues sell for cover price on a good day. And Superman prices have also taken a hit, as fans await the Man of Steel's creative relaunch coming in October.

ASSORTED CRAP REPORT

## MERCH MADNESS

### STATUES, ETC.



We're turning Japanese! While the common version of the Moore Creations Witchblade statue goes for around $120 to $130 online, a 1500-piece Japanese Edition gets $180. The main difference between the two? A Japanese sticker. And since most statues are so rare, high bids aren't limited to big-name characters. A statue of the Shadow, a character as dead as dead can be right now, sold for a strong $255 on eBay.com.

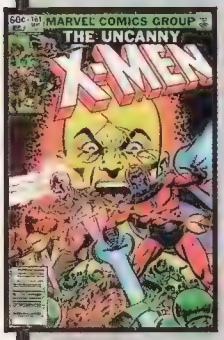
### POSTERS

Posters are becoming a huge commodity! A rabid–some might say nutty–online collector actually paid $12 for a retailer promo poster of the upcoming Superman/Supergirl Crisis on Infinite Earths statue.

# MERCHcont.

Heck, the statue was solicited about five seconds ago! Also of note, a painted 1998 Supergirl poster by Joe Devito (an amazing shot of the Superchick rising out of an explosion) hit the $33 mark on eBay. Even more odd, a poster sporting art by fan-fave Brian Bolland for the much-ignored *Tank Girl* series recently went for $26.

## FRAME JOBS




With original art, covers are a no-brainer. Of all comic images, they easily get the most publicity. Covers also tend to have full-body shots, unadulterated by word balloons or sound effects. Hence, Dave Cockrum's cover to *Uncanny X-Men* #161, featuring a full-figure shot of Professor Xavier and Magneto blasting their enemies, fetched $355 online. Sure that's a lot, but not as much as the jaw-dropping, wraparound cover by Adam Hughes for the upcoming *Ghost Handbook*. Drawn with four prominent shots of Ghost and her cast, it nabbed a whopping $910.

## GOOD AS GOLD

Lesson No. 1 about Golden Age books: They didn't take themselves too seriously. *Captain Marvel* #28 features the Big Red Cheese trading blows (literally) with Adolf Hitler, and sold for $152 in Very Fine condition. Lesson No. 2: Anything from the Golden Age years can be valuable. A Very Fine-condition copy of 1941's *Looney Tunes* #1 reached $1,999, but failed to meet the minimum bid (guide price is about $2,500). There's a reason it's called the Golden Age.

MAKING SENSE OF IT ALL

# HOW TO USE THE PRICE GUIDE

The **WIZARD** Guide contains the most accurate and up-to-the-minute comic book prices possible. Keep in mind that the Price Guide is only a guide; prices may vary depending on the local availability and popularity of a title.

**IT'S EASY...** The price guide is arranged alphabetically by title. Listings for trade paperbacks, annuals, one-shots and graphic novels are found after the regular listing for a title, and are likewise listed alphabetically. When a title has been used several times for different series, like *Legion of Super-Heroes* or even *Fantastic Four*, we list all series under that title chronologically.

You'll notice some book listings have color bars. Red means it's risen in value; blue, fallen in value; green, new issues and/or title listings; and yellow indicates heavy market trading activity, yet no change in value since last issue.

## ALPHABETICAL ARRANGEMENT

After skipping articles "A," "An," and "The" at the beginning of a title, alphabetization is word by word, not letter by letter. Ex: "The Amazing Spider-Man" is listed under "Amazing," but "Batman: Sword of Azrael" comes before "Batman: The Animated Movie" because we include the article "The" when it's an interior part of the title. All titles starting with the word "Star," including "Star Wars," come before titles such as "Stardust" and "Starman." Abbreviations such as "Dr." are listed before titles like "Dragon" but after titles starting with "Doctor." Numeric titles such as "2099 A.D." will be mixed in alphabetically as if the numeral were spelled out as "Two thousand ninety-nine."

## REFERENCES

SECRET DECODER RING

❶ .....First Appearance of
anniv.....Anniversary issue
A .....Appearance
B .....Begin stories with
C .....Cameo that pre-dates ❶
cvr.....Cover
D .....Death/Destruction of
GN.....Graphic Novel
HC.....Hardcover
IR .....Identity revealed
J .....Joins
L .....Last story with
M.....Married
O .....Origin
p .....part #
PF .....Prestige Format
Q .....Quits
R .....Return of
SC.....Softcover
sz .....Size
TPB.....Trade Paperback
w/ .....With
w/o.....Without

## MAKING THE GRADE

**All prices listed in this guide are for Near Mint (NM) condition. When your comic isn't Near Mint, you can compute the price based on the percentages shown below. Keep in mind that everyone grades condition differently and many things factor into grading a comic: age, supply and demand for the various grades, retailer location, local availability, current popularity, and its specific condition. It might help if you grade comics on a 10-point scale, with 10 being perfect and 1 being crappy.**

**MINT (M):** An almost perfect 9.8 to 10 on a 10-point scale! To be Mint, a comic must appear like the day it was printed–no nicks, dings or creases. No tears or shreds on corners, colors are crystal clear, cover gloss is still there and the staples are perfect. Many new comics fall short of Mint standards. Mint comics fetch 125-150% of price listed. Comics after 1970 in Mint should be priced at the Near Mint price, since Mint copies are not unusual for comics after 1970.

**NEAR MINT (NM):** A 9 on a 10-point scale. The book might appear to be Mint, but upon inspection, tiny flaws are seen. The gloss and color are outstanding. **ALL PRICES IN THIS GUIDE ARE FOR NM COPIES, WHICH ARE 100 PERCENT OF GUIDE LISTINGS.**

**VERY FINE (VF):** A 7 on a scale of 10. At first glance may appear Near Mint, but at closer range, you'll notice minor signs of use. VF comics are 70 percent of guide listings (75-80% for pre-1970 books).

**FINE-VERY FINE (FVF):** A 6 outta 10. Pages may be slightly yellow, but not brown or brittle in FVF books. Expect several tiny stress lines along the spine or covers and several tiny color flakes are permitted. The spine may have creases and corners may be slightly rounded, but great cover gloss remains. FVF books go for 50 percent of price guide listings.

**FINE (FN):** A 5 out of 10. Slightly better than average with obvious signs of wear, but still clean and bright without major creasing. Fine books go for 40 percent of price guide listings.

**VERY GOOD (VG):** A 3 out of 10. Average, at best. VG comics appear used, but not abused. They have creases and minor tears. Very Good books go for 15-25 percent of guide listings.

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## CONTACT:

Karen Evora
Advertising Projects Manager
Wizard Entertainment Advertising
151 Wells Avenue
Congers, NY 10920
tel: (914) 268-3907 x144
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# C.B.I.Q.

## YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART...

What a gyp! Not one stinking holiday in all of August. To celebrate this joyless month, we proudly present the all-holiday edition of C.B.I.Q. Here, your comic knowledge will be graded against the holidays that *should* be celebrated in August, but aren't. The higher your score, the neater the holiday.

| SCORE | RANK |
|---|---|
| 0 | *"Hose Off the Part of the Driveway Where Sparky Exploded When It Hit 104 Degrees" Day* |
| 1-5 | *"All Chicks Who Aren't Dumpy Go Topless" Day* |
| 6-11 | *"Hit the Overcrowded Public Beach/Forced to Listen to Loud Latin Music" Day* |
| 12 | *"Bet on How Many of the Elderly Die Because Their AC Blew Out" Day* |

**1** "Jack Frost roasting on a open fire..." Hey, who did Kitty Pryde fight all by her lonesome one Christmas night in the X-Mansion?

A) Ex-Brotherhood of Evil Mutants member the Toad, who turned out just to be lonely
B) An interdimensional demon
C) A Danger Room hologram that came to life
D) Professor X, hopped up on eggnog and screaming something about there being "grass on the field"

**2** Happy Hanukkah! Who's not a Jew?

A) Shadowcat
B) Moon Knight
C) Sabra
D) The Hulk. Not that you heard it from us, but no matter how much of his clothing shreds, he's always wearing a li'l turtleneck sweater, if you catch our drift.

**3** Trick or treat! In *Batman: The Long Halloween*, who turned out to be the murderer "Holiday"?

A) Harvey Dent
B) Gilda Dent
C) Alberto Falcone
D) All of the above. Ugh. That payoff made us soooo happy for blowing $2.95 every month for a year.

**4** Hey...when no one was looking, Arbor Day kinda got swallowed up by Earth Day. Anyway, what happens when you eat the tubers offa Swamp Thing's back?

A) Ahhhhh! This question's just too horrible to continue. Listen, kids, never eat ANYTHING that grew on somebody's back. That's how syphilis got started.

**5** Happy Father's Day, pop! Have a tie! Anyhoo, how many children did that red-helmeted ball of mutant fury Magneto sire?

A) One
B) Two
C) Three
D) None. This guy shoots more blanks than all the bad guys from "A-Team" combined.

**6** ¡Feliz Yom Kippur! Which of the following non-fasting, giant tubs of goo would smother people in the sweaty rolls of his fat?

A) The Slug
B) Shape
C) Deadly Ernest
D) The Stretchmark

**7** Happy Easter, part one: What's the name of the *Wizard* Bunny's diminutive sidekick?

A) Cocoa, the incontinent sock monkey
B) Zippy, the uncomfortably flamboyant lamprey
C) Ping-Ping, the shifty-eyed field mouse
D) Burt Ward

**8** Happy Easter, part two: What does the "Yojimbo" from Usagi Yojimbo, that wacky samurai rabbit's name, translate to?

A) "Father"
B) "Samurai"
C) "Bodyguard"
D) "Watch 'Watership Down' and be emotionally scarred for life"

**9** Kiss me you fool, it's Valentine's Day! Speaking of hearts, who will most likely clutch his chest and die an agonizing death in the next few months thanks to a bum ticker?

A) Iron Man
B) Blockbuster
C) Banshee
D) That Jimmy Dean "More Pork Sausages!" guy. Dude, you can't be eatin' fried pig every morning.

**10** Hmm...not sure if the Great American Smoke-Out is considered a holiday, but screw it, it is now. Which comic character DOESN'T induce cancer by secondhand smoke in his friends?

A) Johnny Blaze
B) The Punisher
C) Nick Fury
D) Morton Downey Jr. Dear God, there's a picture of that guy in the dictionary next to "tumor."

**11** Drop them party favors! What holiday-icon-gone-bad did Spider-Man once lock horns with?

A) A gun-totin' Santa
B) A stick-with-a-nail-in-it-totin' Leprechaun
C) A lacrosse-stick-carryin' Easter bunny
D) Hanukkah Harry, full of Manischewitz wine and tired of takin' crap

**12** Merry Groundhog Day! Which of the following characters isn't under six feet of dirt?

A) The Basilisk
B) Magik
C) Elektra
D) The Spider-Clo...er, wait. I think we have some sort of verbal agreement with Marvel that we don't cap on this character anymore. Sorry to end on a down note. Go read "Time Travel" or something.

## ANSWERS

Candy-asses can peek on the next page if this is too tough...

# BULLPEN LOOK BEHIND THE CURTAIN

## Feeling the Sting

*Wizard* nearly took out WCW wrestling star Sting.

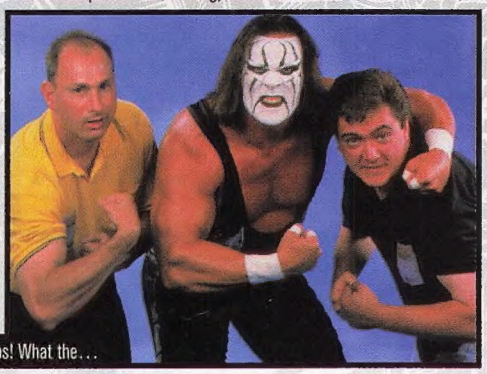
Right out of a recent "Monday Nitro" event, that is.

When *Wizard* decided to run its first-ever original photo cover tying into wrestling-themed comics, the natural choice was WCW star Sting–he of the Crow-like makeup. So *Wizard* Design Manager Steve Blackwell, Senior Managing Editor Joe Yanarella and Photo Maven Paul Schiraldi schlepped off to Cleveland to take in the Nitro show, shoot some cool photos and ogle the Nitro Girls.

Since Sting–the super-friendly Steve Borden when not in costume–puts on the makeup as close to showtime as possible, we agreed to shoot him after Sting's 8:15 p.m.-scheduled onstage appearance. Only one problem: 8:20 rolled around, and Sting still hadn't gone onstage. So we dove right into the photo shoot.

In mid-photo shoot, Sting suddenly stood upright and said, "Is that Macho Man's music?" Joe peeled himself away from the Nitro Girl dance steps he was learning, raced to a TV monitor and confirmed that Randy "Macho Man" Savage was indeed in the ring. With a curt "I'll be back," Sting raced to ringside, publicly challenged Macho Man and later returned to finish the photo shoot.

Unfortunately, the Stinger refused to teach the *Wizard* guys the Scorpion Death Lock. Maybe next time.



**HUH?** Joe Yanarella has biceps! What the...

## TOP 10 ways the summer heat wave will affect comics

10 When the AC unit in Modok's chair conks out, he slips out of the chair due to excessive sweat, and he and his giant, cookie-jar head roll around the sidewalk. Later eaten by wild dogs.

9 Six minutes into her daily walk in the 109-degree heat, Miss Lion explodes.

8 Rob Liefeld draws *Cable*.

7 The Hulk gets really, really crazy from the heat, takes off pants, squats in Cookie Puss display at local Carvel.

6 The Melter does.

5 Too hot for Punisher to leave apartment, decides to only punish pizza-delivery boys.

4 Aspen Matthews (*Fathom*) must slather sunblock with extra-high SPF all over her toned, supple body, rubbing and rubbing the shiny oil over her taut, tanned skin, rubbing...rubbing and rubbing until–*whoop, gotta go.*

3 Rob Liefeld on *Cable*. I know we said this already, but damn, this heat is making people crazy!

2 Red Skull gets sun poisoning on the beach and lies helpless and delirious on a towel as no one notices. Later buried and forgotten by small Latin children.

1 Metal plate in Todd McFarlane's head heats up; he buys a $3-million football.

## C.B.I.Q. answers...

1. B
2. D
3. D
4. A
5. C
6. A
7. A
8. C
9. B
10. B
11. A
12. C

# ONE OF THE DAMNED

DOING HARD TIME

## Nachie Castro RESEARCH ASSISTANT

**WHY WE PAY HIM** "I find everything that anyone needs for Wizard Entertainment's various publications, including art, info, old comics, screen shots, whatever. I also write for the various magazines here and there and try to drink as much coffee as I can."

**BEST OUT-OF-CONTEXT QUOTE** "What did I do with that bone I just pulled?" (In reference to a *Bone* comic book pulled for research purposes.)

**MOST BIZARRE *WIZARD* MOMENT** "It was a few years ago, on my first day as an intern. That was also the day they let artists Nelson de Castro (no relation) and Jimmy Palmiotti tear through the building filming clips to show during Wizard World's first fan awards show. They grabbed me, barked out some questions and ran off. I stammered out some cutting-room-floor material and was left wondering what the hell I got myself into."

PHOTOS: PAUL SCHIRALDI

TIME TRAVEL by JUSTIN JONES

# PATRIOT GAMES

## When Captain America resigned, a new Cap tainted his legend with blood 12 years ago

Captain America never imagined the red in his uniform would represent blood.

But that's what happened when Steve Rogers resigned as Captain America in 1987's *Captain America* #332, and replaced by upstart superhero John Walker, kicking off a year-and-a-half roller-coaster ride for the living legend.

Editor Don Daley knew something had to be done with Cap, then a 46-year-old hero. "Sales weren't great," says Daley, who with his writer, the late Mark Gruenwald, set out on a story line to remind people how important Captain America was. "Is he a dinosaur? Is he obsolete? Our point was, 'No!' [When it was over], you'd appreciate why we needed a Cap more than ever."

It began when the government Commission on Superhuman Activities ordered Steve Rogers, who had served as Captain America since World War II, to take his marching orders only from them. Rogers refused, turned in his uniform and became simply The Captain. Enter Walker, formerly the third-tier hero called Super-Patriot.

But Walker succumbed to the pressure of filling a living legend's boots, and was pushed into insanity when he witnessed the brutal murders of his parents. The story line culminated in issue #350 when Rogers faced archfoe Red Skull, the mastermind behind the whole affair, who gleefully showed Rogers video clips of Walker killing and maiming while wearing the venerable uniform. "We took Cap's ultimate nightmare—Cap kills—and we had the Skull use that against Cap's conscience," says Daley. "By quitting, Steve was the bartender who let John Walker drive [drunk]."

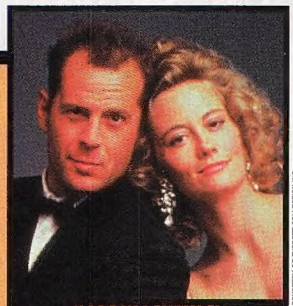
Issue #332 proved to be a smash hit as fans took notice of the Star-Spangled Avenger. By #350, Rogers reclaimed his uniform and shield, and Walker's failure reminded readers that Captain America defined true heroism by conquering constant dilemmas.

And if he had to buck authority to do it, so be it. "I think [Gruenwald] was saying it's better to do what is right than what is legal," Daley claims. "To take this iconic character who venerates law and authority and make that point, I think it was brilliant." (W)

### DATELINE

**AUGUST 1987**

Teenie boppers swooned to **"Dirty Dancing"** in theaters...Couch potatoes loved the romantic tension of **"Moonlighting"**...**Los Lobos'** "La Bamba" exploded to the top of Billboard's charts...The **Iran-Contra** hearings continued, where key military figures were questioned in illegal "weapons for hostages" swaps with Iran for many years.



'MOONLIGHTING'

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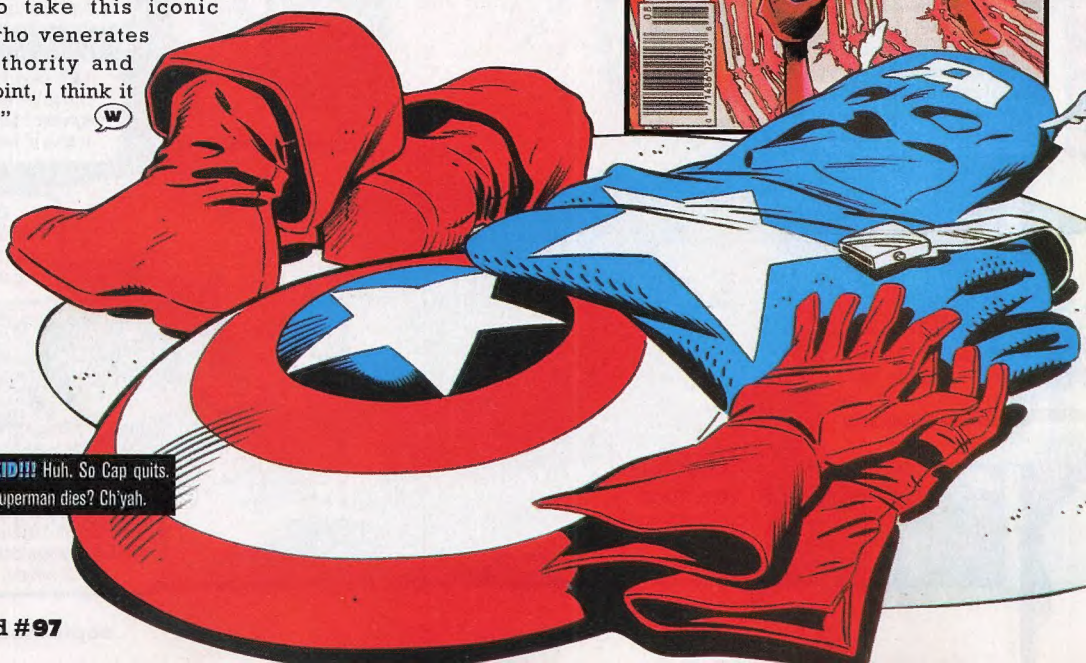

**CAP'S NEKKID!!!** Huh. So Cap quits. What's next, Superman dies? Ch'yah.

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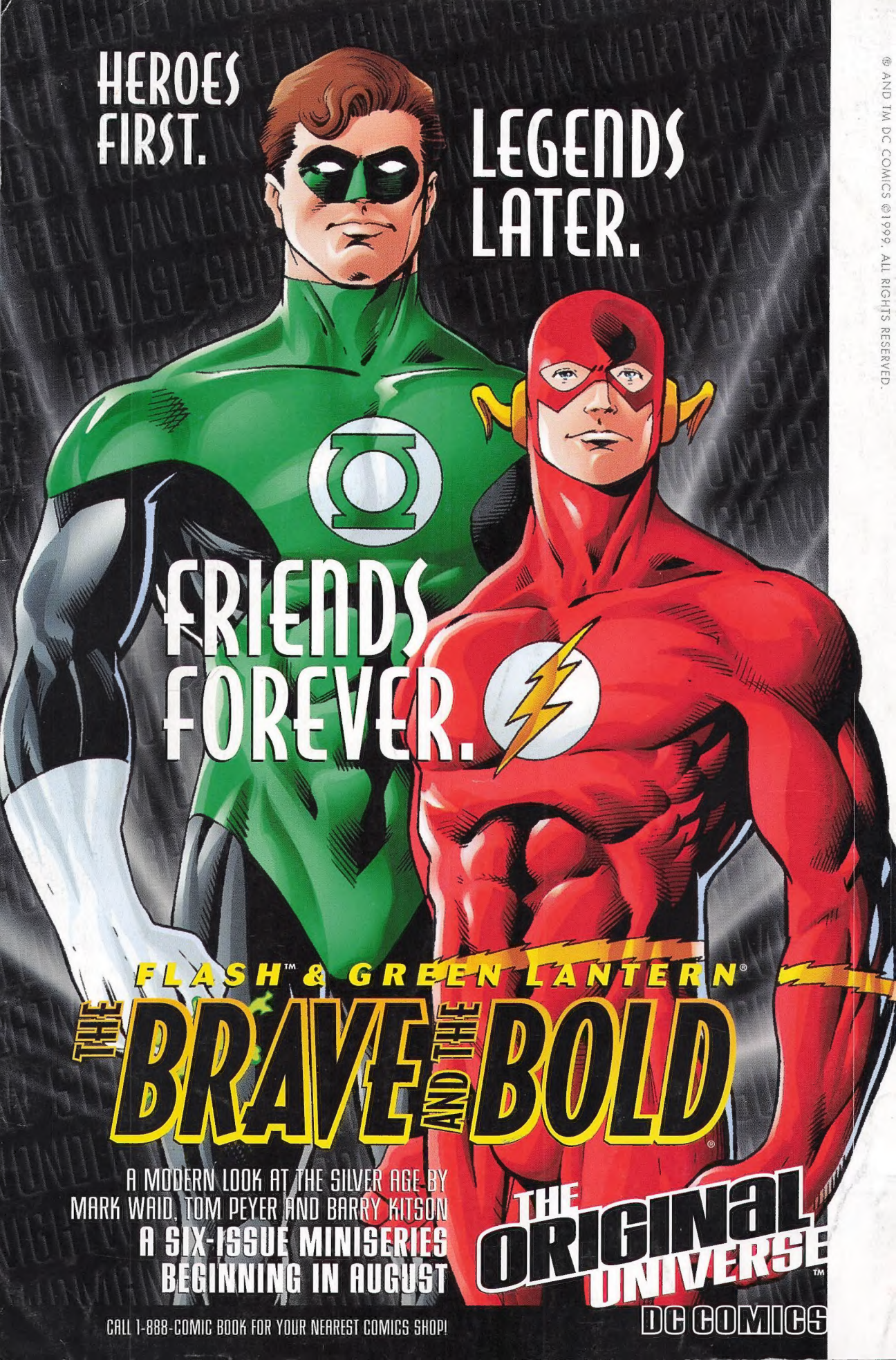
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